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REPORT

ON THE

MANUSCRIPTS

OF HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF PORTLAND,

PRESERVED AT

WELBECK ABBEY.

VOL. V.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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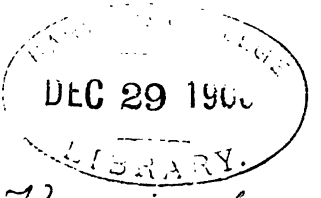

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INTRODUCTION.

The preceding volume of the Calendar of Harley letters and papers concluded at the end of May 1711, shortly after Robert Harley was raised to the peerage as Earl of Oxford, and his appointment to the office of Lord Treasurer. The present volume continues the selection from the family correspondence down to 1724, the year in which Lord Oxford died. Many of the later letters are addressed to Edward, Lord Harley, who succeeded him as the second Earl.

The chief features of the Harley collection were so fully gone into in the Introductions to the two volumes preceding this, that it will not be necessary to dwell at any great length on the contents of the present volume.

De Foe's correspondence with his patron, Lord Oxford, to which special attention was drawn in the Introduction to the last volume of Harley papers, was continued with a few short breaks until a month or two after Queen Anne's death. The personal interest of it is by no means so great as in the letters of earlier date. The letters are mostly signed with a peculiar symbol; in the few to which De Foe has put his name, the signature has been wholly or partly torn off; they are nearly all endorsed by Lord Oxford as received from "Guilot," "Claude "Guilot," or "Mr. Goldsmith." In the second letter from him printed in this volume (p. 13), Lord Oxford is reminded that Lord Godolphin had offered the writer a very good post in Scotland, and afterwards a commissionership of customs there, which he would have accepted, had it not been his Lordship's opinion that he might be more serviceable in a private capacity; he had chosen, therefore, rather to depend upon the Queen's goodness, than to secure for his family a more regular maintenance. From what follows it appears that after his return into Lord Oxford's service, a pension had been assigned or renewed to him, but, like other Government allowances at that period, not very regularly paid, as we learn from the ending of a letter written more than a year afterwards (p. 214). Some of De Foe's letters are filled at

this time, as he himself admits, with "long complaints of the "hardships I meet with from an angry party, upon their notions "of my being in the interest of the Ministry, and entertained "by your Lordship" (p. 274).

About the same date as that of the last quoted letter, namely April 1713 (not 1712 as misprinted in the text of that letter), De Foe had to appear before the Lord Chief Justice for publishing a pamphlet, alleged to be treasonable, entitled, "Reasons against the Hanover Suc- "cession," an essay in political irony to which his enemies tried to attach a wrong meaning (p. 278); and he begs Lord Oxford's protection, which, from the two subsequent letters (pp. 281-284), it appears was quietly brought to bear in his favour. "This is the third time," writes De Foe to his benefactor, "I am "rescued from misery and jail by your generous and uncommon "goodness." The way in which the prosecution was shelved, without the Government being supposed to be at all concerned in the matter, is rather amusingly told in the second of these letters. De Foe's indictment of Richard Steele, in March 1714 (pp. 392-395), for the seditious character of his writings in the "Guardian," the "Englishman," and "The Crisis," giving extracts from those works, is perhaps the most interesting of his later communications to the Lord Treasurer.

John Drummond's letters are also continued in the following pages. They are mostly long, and often tedious, but must not be neglected by anyone wanting to understand the Dutch intrigues of this time, and especially the peculiar relations which existed between Holland and our own country during the later Marlborough campaigns.

The relations between St. John and Oxford receive some further new illustration in these pages. Two letters which the former wrote just before his elevation to the peerage (pp. 194, 198), have most personal interest. In the first of them he expresses a hope that the earldom of Bolingbroke, lately extinct, may be revived in him, but the humble tone he adopts in giving vent to his aspirations is very striking. Lord Oxford, he writes, will best know whether such promotion may give disgust to the viscounts, of whom he has no list by him, and he cannot recollect their names; but he ventures to add that his brother secretary, the Earl of Dartmouth, had recently passed over their heads, and,

setting his services apart, St. John was sure that neither Dartmouth's birth nor his fortune gave him "much better pretensions" than his own. But he immediately adds, "I withdraw the word "pretensions, and confess I have none. The post I fill is more "than I deserve, and I must depend on the Queen's goodness "for this favour." A few days later he writes that he would forfeit anything in his power to recall the above letter; since he asked too much, let the Queen be so good as to give him nothing. It might disoblige some to do what he desired, it would certainly disoblige several to do what the Queen intended; to do nothing for him will be sure to disoblige nobody, and he will be perfectly satisfied to continue in the House of Commons.

In spite of these professions to the Queen and Lord Oxford, other correspondence shows Bolingbroke's real feeling in the matter, and from what Erasmus Lewis writes in October 1712 (pp. 231, 234), it appears that the first prominent person to feel the weight of his displeasure was that amiable, inoffensive nobleman, the "brother secretary" he refers to in the letter above quoted. Lord Dartmouth told Lewis that Bolingbroke had treated him on two or three occasions in one night at Windsor in so rough a manner that he believed it would be impossible for Oxford to find any expedient to keep them together in office; he was therefore willing to retire, as it was impossible for Bolingbroke's services to be dispensed with during the negotiations then on foot. At the same time Drummond (p. 235) is writing to Oxford that the emissaries of the opposition party in England are spreading reports through Holland of an "outcast" between his Lordship and Bolingbroke, the alleged reason for it being that the latter "had made several advances in France "in favour of the Pretender, for which your Lordship had "charged him with going beyond his instructions."

For about a year after the matter of Bolingbroke's peerage this collection contains hardly more than one or two letters, and those of a purely official kind, written by him to the Lord Treasurer. An undated note (pp. 299, 300), written to Lord Oxford shortly after the defeat of the Government on the commercial treaty, in June 1713, reports that the news of that defeat was public at the Hague the day before the English packet reached there, and that the Dutch were overjoyed at it, and laughed openly at the English Ministry. Bolingbroke adds: "Indeed, my Lord, we make a

"despicable figure in the world. You have retrieved many a bad "game in your time; for God's sake make one push for Govern- "ment. I wish you health and everything else that is desirable." In July 1713 (p. 311), he writes in answer to a communication which Oxford had "thought fit to write with so much appear- "ance of openness" to him, that he will never engage in any other interest but Oxford's and that of the friends with whom he now serves. He then proceeds at some length to dwell upon their "unpreparedness to encounter" the strong attacks then being made on the administration, and the causes of it, one of which is—"You are forced to execute more than you should, "and cannot, therefore, supervise. You are pulling at the beam "when you should be in the box whipping and reining in, as "the journey you have to go or the ways you pass through "require." Bolingbroke afterwards advises certain changes in the Ministry, and ends—"If you forgive the length of this letter, "and yet think that the worst part of it, you will be that great "and that good natured man I always took you for. At Court "or from Court, such as I am, I am ever yours." Subsequent letters of Bolingbroke, written in the same year, show that the estrangement between the two statesmen was by no means so complete as their biographers usually assume. In August and September (pp. 324, 326), he writes repeated congratulations to Oxford on the marriage of his son Lord Harley, and adds to his last reference to the event—"The fortune, the honourable manner "of obtaining it, and the consequences of this establishment, "are all considerations which affect me with as great pleasure "as I ever felt. This truth, you may, my Lord, safely entertain, "since whatever faults I may have I am on two sides free from "blemish, and these are zeal for the Queen's service and friend- "ship to your Lordship." Nearly three months later another event in Lord Oxford's family, but this a sad one, the death of his daughter, Lady Carmarthen, calls forth a strong expression of Bolingbroke's sympathy (p. 360), which deserves quotation—"It would be really impertinent for me to suggest any con- "siderations to you who are as well armed against these severe "trials as strength of reason and fortitude of mind can arm a "man. It is enough for me to assure you that no person, even "in your own family and among those who are nearest to you, "can take a more sincere part in all the good and bad fortune "which happens to you than I do." Early in December (p. 369)

Bolingbroke declares his readiness to contribute all he can to overcome the difficulties under which the Government is then struggling, and begs Lord Oxford not to "entertain a thought "that I give myself airs or have the least lukewarmness. I "see a man here [at Windsor] every night that does the former "with a witness. The pigmy stretches and struts, and fancies "himself a giant"; and on December 17 (p. 373), he writes, "I see an opportunity of giving new strength, new spirit to "your administration, and of cementing a firmer union between "us, and between us and those who must support us. If you "go to Windsor alone on Saturday, I'll talk to you on the subject. "If I am wrong you will not lose much time in a coach on the "road. Believe me for once, what I always am, and have been "to you, sincere, however I may have been too warm and your "Lordship, allow the expression, too jealous." A week afterwards Bolingbroke writes two urgent letters (p. 374), desiring Oxford's immediate attendance at Windsor Castle, on account of the Queen's extreme illness.

At the beginning of 1714 Bolingbroke finds himself in pecuniary straits, having to pay off a mortgage of 3,500*l.* on an estate he had bought, and begs the "extreme favour" (p. 379) of the Lord Treasurer that the sums he had advanced to the Queen's messengers during his three years of office may be refunded to him, in addition to "half a year's secret service." What was the fate of this application does not appear in these papers.

Even so late as March 27 1714 (p. 404), Bolingbroke writes expressing his attachment to Lord Oxford in the following terms—"As I am not conscious to myself of having ever deserved "ill at your Lordship's hands, so it is a great satisfaction to me "to find that I may please myself with the thoughts of having "some share in your friendship. I most sincerely desire to see "your Lordship, as long as I live, at the head of the Queen's "affairs, and of the Church of England party; to see the admin-"istration flourish under your direction, the quiet of the Queen's "reign secured, and effectual measures taken to put those of our "friends who may outlive the Queen beyond the reach of Whig "resentment. These, my Lord, are the only views I have, and "the only designs I am engaged in. I am, with the truest and "most cordial affection," &c.

Two letters dated in April (pp. 423, 425) conclude the correspondence between them, so far as it has been preserved in this collection. They are both of an official kind, but Lord Oxford's endorsement of the first shows the bitterness felt by him against the writer of it.

Lord Oxford's relations with that eminent member of the "Junto," Charles Montagu, Earl of Halifax, have not formed the subject of much comment by historians and biographers. It is interesting, therefore, to be able to draw attention to the apparent friendliness of their intercourse during the greater part of Harley's second term of office. The position which Halifax continued to hold throughout the Queen's reign as joint auditor of the Exchequer with Lord Oxford's brother Edward may have helped to keep them on good terms. Towards the end of the year 1711 Halifax writes three letters (pp. 108, 115, 120), to bring about meetings between Lord Somers and Oxford, but the ill health of the former at that time appears to have been the chief obstacle to any union between them, and the matter is not again referred to in the correspondence. Halifax's hearty support of the Lord Treasurer's policy, as expressed in his letters written about the same time (pp. 125, 131, 133), is remarkable enough, though early in the year following Drummond writes from Amsterdam that Halifax and Nottingham have a correspondence carried on there extremely to the prejudice of the public good and the Queen's honour, and he adds that Halifax's name is much made use of, but there is no evidence that he has had the weakness to write himself (p. 162).

In April 1712 (p. 166), Lord Halifax affords us a glimpse of his literary friendships by returning Lord Oxford his "particular "thanks for continuing Mr. Congreve in his little office," and flatters himself that his solicitation had some weight in influencing the Lord Treasurer's decision.

Later letters (pp. 251, 254, 268, 271, &c.) show yet more forcibly the mutual desire of these two statesmen to form some kind of alliance, notably that of December 26 1712, in which Halifax writes, "Whatever accidents or what-"ever fatality have hitherto hindered our clearly under-"standing each other, the loss, the misfortune, has been "wholly mine; it was always my inclination to have it "otherwise, 'tis my desire and 'tis my interest to obtain it "by all endeavours I can use, and all service I can pay your

"Lordship." In October 1713, Oxford is begged to desire the Queen's acceptance of a "very fine lioness," sent to Halifax by the Governor of Fort St. George; and also to remind her Majesty of her promise to plant some forest trees in Bushey Park, his efforts to beautify which he thinks deserve so much countenance.

Very few of Lord Oxford's own letters will be found in this volume. The only one of political importance was written to Thomas Harley when on his mission to Hanover in April 1714 (pp. 417-419), about the ill-advised action of Baron Schutz, the Hanoverian agent in London, in demanding a writ of summons to the House of Lords for the Elector as Duke of Cambridge, and about the relations of Queen Anne to the Elector and to the Pretender generally. There is also a paper in Oxford's handwriting, dated June 6-July 1 1714 (pp. 464-468), and headed, "A very brief account of her Majesty's affairs since "August 1710 to this time," which is evidently the first draft of "A brief account of Public Affairs," printed in the appendix to Vol. VI. of the "Parliamentary History"; and another statement made by him (p. 480) of certain payments made on the Queen's behalf, which were apparently never recovered by him or his successor. Noticeable also is Lord Oxford's draft of a congratulatory letter to King George (p. 484) on his accession. There is little of personal interest to be gleaned from the papers of the later years of his life, except perhaps from the series of his letters, written when confined in the Tower, between October 1715 and August 1717, a few extracts from which are given on pp. 529-532. As an appendix to this volume we print at length Auditor Harley's "Memoirs of the Harley Family, "especially of Robert Harley, first Earl of Oxford," a compilation not unknown to historians and biographers, as a copy of it is to be found among the Lansdowne MSS. in the British Museum, and it was seen and copied at Welbeck by Sir James Mackintosh, but it is believed to be now printed as a whole for the first time. As a statement of Harley's career, policy, and conduct, from the point of view of his family, it seems worthy of some study.

Of Dean Swift's famous political relations with Lord Oxford not many tokens are noted in this collection. There are drafts of the Queen's speech at the opening of Parliament in April 1713, in Swift's handwriting, and his letter, written shortly after

the Queen's death (p. 488), but those of later date written from Ireland (pp. 506, 513, 528, 560, 592, 632, 636, 639), are almost entirely of a friendly and bantering kind, except the one dated in July 1715 about Oxford's impeachment. Swift's letter to the second Earl on the death of his father (not, however, printed for the first time), and the Earl's reply to it, form a fitting conclusion to this part of the Harley Correspondence.

The most important diplomatic document printed in this volume, and at the same time the most interesting one from a personal point of view, is the account drawn up by Matthew Prior of his secret mission to Paris in July 1711 (pp. 34-42). The historians of this period and the biographers of Prior have little information on this episode, except what can be gathered from Torcy's Memoirs. Prior's own account of his long interviews with Torcy, winding up with a graphic picture of the audience to which he was admitted with the Grand Monarch, and an attempt to reproduce the exact words of the conversation which passed between them, is, therefore, a welcome historical document. "The King was walking, he stood still when I came "in," writes Prior, "and as I made my obeisance to him he "nodded a little, bowed to me at my third bow, and sitting "or leaning his back rather upon a table behind him, as I came "up to him, he began. . . ." Swift, it will be remembered, ridiculed this secret expedition in his "A New Journey to "Paris." Prior became the intimate friend of Lord Harley in his later years, and we have a few pleasing glimpses of him in retirement in subsequent correspondence (pp. 598, 610, 620); the letters of both Lord and Lady Harley after his death (pp. 625, 626) show their deep attachment to him.

The letters from prominent Scottish noblemen and gentlemen relating to the affairs of their own country are numerous, and though they cannot for the most part be said to contribute anything new to history, they have the same interest and importance which is possessed by other correspondence in this volume, and other like collections of papers, in being contemporary accounts of, and comments on historical events already well known to us. It will be sufficient here to give the names of the chief writers and, in the absence of an index, the places where their best letters may be found—The Earl of Leven (p. 42); Lord Yester (p. 76); Lord Balmerino (pp. 81, 96, 141, 182); the Earl of Kinnoull, whose son, Lord Dupplin, it will be remembered,

had married Lord Oxford's daughter (pp. 97, 121, 122, 256, 303); the Duke of Hamilton (pp. 109, 138); the Earl of Glasgow (pp. 114, 298); William Carstares (p. 122); Cameron of Lochiel (pp. 129, 220); the Duke of Atholl (pp. 172-5, 287, 288, 290, 302, 357); Lady Huntly (p. 185); and George Lockhart (p. 252). The lists of Scottish peers, representative or desiring to be elected such, their "pretensions" with regard to office, pay, or pension, drawn up apparently by Lord Dupplin, are also noteworthy (pp. 313, 314). De Foe's letters on Scotland are also very important, especially one, in which he gives his views about the proposed appointment of a Secretary of State for Scotland (pp. 44-47), and another describing the three political parties influencing public affairs there (pp. 82-84).

After the death of the Queen the Duke of Atholl writes to the Earl Findlater (p. 487) an account of the steps taken in Scotland to secure the succession of a Protestant King. In March 1719 a new Peerage Bill was brought in, having for one object the limitation of Scottish peers in the House of Lords to twenty-five, and making them hereditary instead of elective. The commotion among the northern nobility excited by this scheme is well illustrated by the letters passing amongst them which are printed on pp. 578-582. There are two letters giving full details of the defeat of the Highlanders and Spaniards near the Glenshiel pass by General Wightman in June 1719.

There is little in this volume which throws any light on the condition of Ireland at the time. A letter written in June 1711 (p. 20) is noticeable for its reference to many of the leading politicians and clergy by name, and their attitude towards the Government; and in the succeeding months (pp. 30, 65, 74, 75), we have glimpses of the Duke of Ormonde acting as Lord Lieutenant of the kingdom. Two letters of the Rev. W. Perceval to Dr. Gastrell (pp. 105, 112), on schemes for converting the Irish, the objections to printing works in the Irish tongue with that object, and other matters dealt with by the Houses of Convocation there, are also of interest. Mention may also be made of Sir Constantine Phipps's letter of December 26 1712, describing the difficulties met with by the authorities in keeping the nonconforming ministers and their congregations, notably the Presbyterians, in due subjection, though, as he reminds Lord Oxford, "their indulgence in the exercise of their religion is "by her Majesty's grace and connivance," they having "no

"toleration granted them by law." Francis Iredell's letter of September 23 1713 (p. 339) also relates to the same subject. Another letter tells Edward Southwell how the Lord Mayor of Dublin "daily snubs and takes down" the Recorder of the city (p. 239). At the end of 1713 there was great discussion in Dublin about the Lord Mayor being continued in his office, and the Lord Chancellor reports (p. 370), that Shrewsbury, the newly appointed Lord Lieutenant, was siding with the Whigs against the decision of the Judges.

Concerning the American Colonies, there is a long letter dated from New York, June 21 1712 (p. 186-191), from Caleb Heathcote, who introduces himself as having been in correspondence for fifteen years with the Bishop of London on the settlement of the Church in North America. To Lord Oxford he discloses the "great abuses and mismanagements . . . constantly "practised in these parts of her Majesty's dominions," and proposes certain remedies. In a much shorter communication written a few weeks afterwards (p. 199), Heathcote refers to the "many little Charter governments," mischievous and ruinous both to Church and State in America, "for they are so vain and "great in their little commonwealths as to make laws without "having regard to their being repugnant to the laws of England." Moreover, for every member of the Church there he thinks there are thirty or forty Dissenters, and "it very much concerns the "nation of Great Britain to take some speedy care of us . . . "lest in time the seed of rebellion should spring up. . . Very "credible persons, both in New England and Connecticut, have "heard some of the people talk as if they were now in a con-"dition to set up for themselves, and were not now to be governed "by England, or words to that effect." Of affairs in South Carolina in 1713 we get a brief view (pp. 271, 272).

Of the part taken by some of the American Colonies in the expedition of 1711 for the reduction of Canada may be read some interesting details in Gurdon Saltonstall's letter, printed on p. 89.

Of the campaign in the Netherlands there is little new information to be gathered from this correspondence, but attention may be directed to a letter of General Hans Hamilton, written from Lens in July 1711 (p. 26), describing amongst other matters the capture of a little fort at Arleux; Henry Watkins's letter from the same camp (p. 191, but unfortunately misplaced by a year in the arrangement of the papers); two letters of

Lord Stair in October, 1711 (pp. 92, 96); and two from Lord Orkney (pp. 95, 177). The few letters of the Duke of Ormond during the 1712 campaign as commander in chief after Marlborough's disgrace, are also noticeable (pp. 165, 176, 198). Marshal Villars' letter to Lord Oxford, written about the time of the great general's successes against the allied army after the withdrawal of the troops in British pay from it, should also not be overlooked (p. 218).

Like many of its predecessors this report will be found rich in letters of, or references to, some of the minor celebrities, or notorious characters, of the period which it covers. In this connexion the following notes have been made:—

There are three or four letters of John Toland, two of them of considerable length, which markedly illustrate the vanity and self-importance of the man. In the first of these (p. 4), he writes that it would be strange if a person of his liberal education and experience in foreign courts (to mention, he adds, no other qualifications), should not be useful to so learned and so politic a minister as Lord Oxford. In a letter of later date (pp. 126, 127), Toland gives his views on the peace and on domestic and foreign politics, and adds—"Don't you now find by experience that what "I wrote to you about that [Hanoverian] Court near a twelve-"month since is exactly true? Instead, then, of your Priors "and your Swifts, you ought to dispatch me privately this minute "to Hanover; where you'll find me as secret as I hope to be "successful." In another undated letter (pp. 258-260), he dwells on the services, both public and private, that he could render to Lord Oxford, and notes that "two hundred pounds a year, "quarterly paid," would be the utmost he expected for them. Toland adds, "Till, therefore, you pitch upon the method of "settling me without costing yourself anything, I am absolutely "pressed by the nature of my so uncertain and irregular affairs, "to beg you would this day order me twenty pounds, which "will keep me, I hope, from further importuning till the way "mentioned be found out." There is no evidence among the Harley papers that Lord Oxford engaged him for any employment.

In Swift's *Journal to Stella*, under July 1712, there is a curious account of "the old Bishop of Worcester, who pretends to be a "prophet," going to the Queen to prove to her "out of Daniel "and the Revelations, that four years hence there would be a

"war of religion; that the King of France would be a "Protestant," &c. The Lord Treasurer, Swift was told, "con-"founded him sadly in his own learning, which made the old "fool very quarrelsome. He is nearly ninety years old." This picture of the notable anti-papist, Dr. William Lloyd, is amusingly corroborated by a letter of the venerable prelate himself, written some six months before the above entry (p. 128), which refers to his prophetic gifts, and shows incidentally the effect which his expositions, in one particular instance at least, had on his clergy and friends.

There is an interesting reference in one of Drummond's letters, dated early in May 1713 (p. 287), to John Law, notorious later for his Mississippi project, which brought such disaster upon France. At this time he is described as having picked up a great estate in Italy, whether by army contracts or by gaming is left in doubt, but his financial capacity evidently ranked high with those brought into relations with him; and he is said to have much money in the English funds invested in the name of Lord Ilay, the Duke of Argyll's brother. Drummond writes that he should be sorry to see him settle with his wealth at the Hague, where he had bought a fine house, and urges Lord Oxford to procure his pardon, unless his crime in killing Willson many years previously were very black, on the ground of the services he would be able to render his country in money matters. Law was further said to be "really admired" by all who knew him in Holland, and to be soliciting a pardon or reprieve through his friends Argyll and Ilay. Drummond concludes his remarks on this notable character with the wish that the Queen's subjects of such good estates and sense should be established at home.

Of the eminent preacher Dr. Robert South, we have an interesting glimpse in a letter to Lord Oxford, dated from "Westminster Abbey" in June 1713, when he was about seventy years old, declining in witty and somewhat sarcastic phrases the "gracious and surprising offer lately brought me from her "Majesty," apparently of the bishopric of Rochester. "For," he writes, "having for now above these forty years, the best, "the ablest, and most useful part of my age, not been thought "fit by my superiors to serve the Crown or Church in any other "way or station than what I have held hitherto, I cannot but "in modesty (and even in respect to them), judge myself

"unworthy and unfit to serve them in any higher or greater "post now, being grown equally superannuated to the active "as well as enjoying part of life" (p. 295).

There are a few letters of Bishop Atterbury printed in this report, but none of much interest, if we except that written to Lord Oxford on the day he left England after his liberation from the Tower (p. 634).

For the more miscellaneous topics touched upon in this correspondence, of literary, biographical, antiquarian, or other interest, we would call attention to the following—Lord Stair's letters from the "Camp at Cotte" in July 1711, on the death of the Duke of Queensberry, Lord Oxford's relations with the Duke of Marlborough, and other matters (pp. 43, 93, 96); the Duke of Argyll in Barcelona, &c. (pp. 17, 73, 141, 240); the poet Granville's reference to Dennis the critic (p. 69); Alexander Cunningham's letters from Rome, Milan, &c. (pp. 70, 99, 146, 169, 205, 230); Baron Price's notes of proceedings at Exeter assizes in August 1711 (p. 71, 72); the descriptions by John Urry, the editor of Chaucer, of Atterbury's installation as Dean of Christ Church (p. 93), and of the antiquities discovered at Stonesfield, near Woodstock (pp. 142, 144); Urry's work on Chaucer is referred to at some length at a later date (p. 247, 248); Mrs. Dela Manley (pp. 95, 453, 458, 491); the Court of Wards and Requests records, and the memorials of Madox and Anstis thereon (pp. 102, 153, 577); Lord Derby and the Isle of Man (p. 131); the petition from Birmingham about the lack of churches there (p. 135); the "Characters," alleged to be written by Prince Eugene, of the leading English statesmen in 1712 (pp. 156-158); Col. Horace Walpole's references to his nephew Robert (pp. 137, 172, 228), and to political matters in Norfolk generally (pp. 24, 25, 29); Sir Robert Walpole's "vile" speech on his election for Lynn in 1713 (p. 344); Bishop Compton's letter written a few months before his death, which shows the pecuniary straits to which his great benevolence had reduced him (p. 233); the letters of Dr. Hugh Todd of Carlisle (pp. 31, 251, 293, 304); the imputation on Nicholas Rowe's official character (p. 263); the domestic struggles of the learned Joseph Bingham (p. 289); James Gibbs, the architect (pp. 331, 332); Capt. Thomas Coram, while yet "unknown" (p. 297); notes on Cumberland and its families, by A. Carleton

(pp. 342-344); Robert Davis (De Foe's brother-in-law), and his diving engine (p. 350); Dr. Richard Bentley (pp. 387, 522, 532, 629, 633); Sir Godfrey Kneller, whose letter refers incidentally to "a stingy, penurious, griping Duchess" (p. 398); the numerous news letters, beginning early in 1714, and, with more or less regularity, extending down to 1721, which have been selected for publication as forming an useful continuation (with some gaps) to Luttrell's "Brief Relation of State Affairs;" many letters of young Edward Harley to his aunt at Eywood, which cover part of the same period, are practically news letters also; John Gay on his mission to Hanover with Lord Clarendon (p. 457); horse racing at Nottingham in August 1714 (p. 488); Simon Ockley in prison at Cambridge for debt (p. 526); the letter of Henry Carey, the musician (p. 552), on his treatment by the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn, which throws much light on a hitherto obscure career; Eustace Budgell (p. 588); the South Sea and kindred speculations (pp. 591-628 *passim*), the building of Cavendish Square, &c. (597-599); Humfrey Wanley's account of the Harleian Library in 1715 (p. 514), and his letters on books and manuscripts (pp. 520, 523, 524, 527, 582). The last of them is specially noticeable for its references to Coventry and the long connexion of the writer's family with that city. Dr. John Covel and his collection of medals (pp. 562, 589, 630-632); Thomas Hearne, 523, 528, 637; and Alexander Pope, 630, 638.

The next volume of this Calendar, the fourth of the series of Harley correspondence, will bring the publication of the papers down to the death of the second Earl of Oxford in 1741, and will contain the index to the four volumes. There still remain at Welbeck to be dealt with a large number of volumes of letters and papers of a more official character, addressed to, or collected by, Robert Harley during his parliamentary and official career, a selection from which, it is anticipated, will make a valuable supplement to our known State papers of that period. Preserved there also is a long series of letters to Lord Harley, afterwards the second Earl of Oxford, by Dr. William Stratford, a canon of Christ Church, and Harley's tutor during his residence at Oxford; they range in date from 1710 to 1729, the year of Stratford's death, and contain much of interest relating to the University life at that period, as well as refer-

ences to public characters and events. Selections are being made from this correspondence with a view to their publication in a separate volume.

The Calendar of the papers printed in this volume, and the introduction thereto, have been prepared, under the direction of the Commissioners, by Mr. J. J. Cartwright, the secretary to the Commission.

CALENDAR OF THE MANUSCRIPTS OF HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND.

Vol. V.

HARLEY LETTERS AND PAPERS. VOL. III.

Dr. White Kennett to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, June 1—Congratulates him on his happy recovery and well-deserved honours; and makes bold again to represent the great concern of the merchants at Leghorn that their earnest petition for another chaplain to succeed the writer's brother, Basil Kennett, was still suspended. Mr. Taubman was recommended to her Majesty as a fit person in his place; but the resident of the Grand Duke in England pleaded that only the English Envoy at Florence was entitled to a chaplain. Begs that Mr. Taubman may be speedily sent to Leghorn.

J. D[rummond] to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, June [1-]12, N.S. Amsterdam—Since your opening in Parliament your fine and generally approved of project for the satisfying of the public debts of the nation, I have had more visits from our great men and their spies than I had for some time before, some pretending to be entirely ignorant of the whole affair, and that they were come to take my account of it, others pretended to know more of it than in truth there is, and wanting to hear what I had to say to their account of it, and some very plainly showing a considerable jealousy of that part of the project in relation to the South Sea Company, saying that the making any settlement in the Spanish West Indies is making a partition of the dominions of Spain; that if the English should make settlements in the South Sea, it might prove a great prejudice to their neighbours in their trade to the East Indies. My answers were as general as I could, pretending to have no farther account of the whole affair than what was public in the printed votes of Parliament; but that I had heard about the beginning of this war that there was a treaty with King Charles, that whatever places, forts, or settlements we should gain in the Spanish West Indies this war we were to continue in full and perpetual possession of them; that, on the other hand, the French had been making a right use of what we had so scandalously hitherto neglected, and had not only increased their trade and navigation, to the great advantage of their inhabitants, by carrying on a very considerable trade both to the Spanish West Indies and South Sea, but that the whole revenue of France had not so much contributed to their prolonging and carrying on this war against us, as that very trade had done, and that particularly the French had last year sent out ships to the South Sea, who went from thence with their pieces of eight which they purchased for the product of France, and bought a lading of East

India goods at their fort of Pondicherry, on the coast of Bengal, and so came home from the East Indies to Port Louis, and sold in France their cargoes of muslins and calicos to great advantage, and to the great detriment of the Dutch and English East India Companies, and that we never seemed to take any precaution against this trade. I hoped they would now be very glad to see England drive the French out of it, and take possession of it themselves, and that Sir James Wishart, as I was informed, had made an offer to the States to come into some such project, but that the States had refused the offer, and that nobody could blame England to do what they could for the enlarging their trade to America, considering what great advantages all the principals in this expensive and bloody war were to have, viz., the House of Austria, Spain, and now the Imperial Crown again, and the States a barrier of considerable towns and provinces able to maintain thirty to forty thousand men to them in time of peace without any burden to the State, and England had not any visible prospect of advantage except the common security of Europe, notwithstanding—nicely reckoned—they had maintained two-thirds of the whole war.

The gentleman whom I thought convenient to take so much pains upon is both a Burgomaster and director of our East India Company for life, and I must say he seemed to depart more convinced than satisfied. Some of your own English Company gentlemen have been writing over to hear the Dutch opinions of your great project. I have wrote to several that they think it the greatest and best project for the good of England that has been made this war, and that a great deal of Dutch money will go over on the project, especially from our Spanish merchants, who, indeed, have the truest notion of the benefit which such a company may bring to England, and I have wrote in such a manner to those English directors whom I correspond with, that if the English East India Company ever had any inclination to make an agreement with you about taking the payment of the debts on them, having the same privileges which you propose for the new company, and also the same funds which the Government proposes for the payment of the interest of the public debts granted to them, they will now resolve, seeing that if they don't, it may meet with encouragement without them, and will certainly in time very much eclipse them, and fall their stock very low.

You will see by the enclosed extract of my friend's letter from the army what a melancholy prospect we have of this campaign, being only in order as if it were to facilitate the operations of another campaign, when all the world hoped it might have proven the last and most decisive campaign of this whole war. It is true this campaign is but in a manner yet begun, and the army will be yet near five months in the field, so that many unexpected occasions for action may still happen, and the election of a new Emperor may give new turns to politics. Count Sinzendorf says very freely in conversation that if you tamper much with the Marquis Delborgo, and seem inclined to assure the Duke of Savoy of the Spanish succession, the new Emperor will make his terms with France, and soon break all your measures, and Count Taronca, the Portugal Envoy, threatens hard also against the Duke of Savoy.

Whatever the Spanish or Imperial Ministers may say of King Charles staying at Barcelona, we have private letters from thence, that say that both that King and Queen are the most impatient creatures to be in the Empire that can be imagined, and that they only wanted an opportunity tolerably safe to come away immediately. When I told

this to some of our great men here, they said if they do come away it is none of our fault, and if they do precipitate a peace, it will be as little our fault, and whether their imprudent actions bring us out of this war or not, we must be out of it as well as we can, if we cannot get so good an end of it as we wish to have.

The States of Holland are now sitting, to find out funds for their lottery of six million of guilders. There are no less than twenty-two different projects of funds laid before them; they are all kept secret; as soon as I can discover them I will trouble you with an account of them; meantime, the lottery is to be for thirty-two years and in thirty-two classes. The capital is to increase twenty per cent. in the thirty-two years' time, and to have four per cent. in the meantime, and the benefit tickets are only to have two per cent. till paid. It is believed it may fill in time, because of the many benefit tickets; but it will not fill very hastily, and to give it the more credit, the province of Holland is to take the payment of all upon them, and it is said a project is to be carried on towards the winter also for America. The prohibition of trade with France is now to be only in this manner, that nothing of the product of France is to be admitted into the Provinces, except in Dutch ships built in this Province, and consequently if the French will send their wines here, they must open the navigation to Dutch ships again, which they have lately very strictly prohibited.

I have sent Mr. Secretary St. John this night the intelligence I got from St. Germain of the 8th instant. I cannot see that you have much to apprehend from thence. We can have no certainty yet from Brest, but I expect a letter every post, and the letters from Paris assure us they are going for America, and carry some soldiers to Carthagena and Portobello; but as I have been at much pains to gain a correspondent at Brest, I have still hopes to succeed, and that I may be able to give you in a short time a better account of them.

That Mr. Fleming I mentioned in my last, I believe it will not be so proper to allow him to go home, because I hear he left Scotland about the time of the last designed invasion. My Lord Drummond, of whom Lord Raby has a more dangerous opinion than his capacity deserves, though his inclinations are not to be trusted, is going home with the Scots' convoy from Rotterdam about a fortnight hence. He is now at Ghent, and I am told very sickly and consumptive.

The letter from my friend at the army I have sent entirely to the Secretary of State, there being something in it that concerns him. I have desired that it may be shown to you, but I take no notice that I have the honour to write to you.

LADY DUPPLIN to her aunt, ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1711, June 2. London—I received your kind letter last night, which was a great refreshment after coming through the dust from Kensington. We dined there with our namesake [Mrs. Masham], and had a pleasant walk in the garden in the evening. I thought you had known what the titles were, else had sent you word that it is the Earl of Oxford, Earl Mortimer, and Baron Harley of Wigmore Castle, so my brother is Lord Harley; my father is called only by the title of Oxford. I believe now letters should be directed to the Lord Treasurer.

June 5—I had writ so far on Saturday, and could not go on, being prevented by company and going to the Park. Lady Cardigan would have me wait on her to Mr. Portman's garden, where we walked till

it was late, so could not write when I came home. That lady is extremely good-humoured, and has everything that can recommend a woman of quality. Amongst the many visits of ceremony there is very little satisfaction, but when one meets with such an acquaintance it is very happy; every time I am in her company I am still better pleased. There was a mighty appearance at Westminster on Friday. I believe you will like Lord Keeper's speech. Last night there was a Drawing-room, and the Commons presented to her Majesty a representation of all the ill-management; it will be printed against next post. I was not at Court, my Lord made me promise not to go in the crowd, and, indeed, I hear there was so great a one that I am very well pleased at his kindness that prevented my being in it.

Postscript.—I have sent you some Grubstreet from cousin Smith.

J[OHN] TOLAND to the EARL OF OXFORD, York Buildings.

1711, June 6—It were strange if a person of my liberal education and experience in foreign Courts (to mention no other qualifications) should not be found useful in some things to so learned as well as so politic a Minister, to whom I have been gaining all the credit abroad that was possible. Of this I could give many indisputable proofs, but choose rather to give one instance of my love, and therefore I send your Lordship the enclosed copy of a letter [? letter printed under March, 1711] I wrote to a friend in Holland the day after you were so barbarously stabbed, as I sent a much longer one the same evening to Hanover.

[DANIEL DE FOE* to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, June 7—In obedience to your commands, I have here enclosed an abstract of the papers I received from Scotland which relate to the late tumult in the city and the breach between the magistrates of Edinburgh and the Custom-house officers.

It is not for me to offer any thoughts on this affair, but to lay before you the matter of fact in general. Your Lordship will easily see whether the Custom-house officers have been in the right; my account has several little aggravations in it, and recriminations on the characters of the officers, which, indeed, are not very good. But these, as less material, and coming from only one party, I omit.

As I am big with several things of this kind to lay before your Lordship, which the happy hurries you have been taken up with have deprived me of the opportunity of, and as I know the inconvenience of troubling you with tedious preambles which come from that country, I beg leave to lay things down in heads, that you may command the particulars of such first as are most useful.

1. The composition made by the heritors of *old Deer* (where the great rabble now under prosecution before the justiciary in Scotland was begun) as the first fruits of the happy conclusion of the General Assembly.

2. A great uneasiness of the ministers for fear of the printing the Bible being given exclusively to a set of men, who they say are not enemies only to their Church, but not orthodox in the principles of religion, by which they judge erroneous and clandestine copies of the Bible may be dispersed in the Highlands and disputes about the translation of the Scriptures be commenced among the common people.

* Signature torn off.

3. A dispute between the Commissioners of Excise and the garrison of Innerlocky, which will be brought before your Lordship, and of which I have all the particulars to apprize you of beforehand.
4. A case of the Earl of Hyndford's Dragoons.
5. The case of Dalziel the Privateer and the merchants of Aberdeen.
6. A proposal of improvement of the duty of Excise.

These and several other cases, as your Lordship pleases to command, shall be laid before you more at large. I shall attend on Monday evening, according to your order.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford, "Claude Guilot."

DR. WILLIAM STRATFORD to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 7. Christ Church—Acknowledging the receipt of his instructions to send up Lord Harley, and expressing his hope that he might be allowed to return and finish his studies when the Radnor election was over.

The EARL OF ORKNEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 7. Harwich—It is many years since I was made to hope I should have a title by some who pretended to be my friends, but they disappointed me. I know you will think two brothers at a time will be too much, so I must of necessity yield to him [the Duke of Hamilton], but I hope my services have been so constant and so long that I shall have no other of our nation preferred to me in that. It is impossible to be in the station your Lordship is so deservedly promoted to, but you must expect to be troubled. I will do it as little as possible, but I hope from your justice that you will think my pretensions as good as anybody's.

V[ILLERS] BATHURST to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 7. Chelsea—Some time since I gave you the trouble of a representation of my long service as Judge Advocate of the Navy and of the slender provision that is made for that service, and prayed that when any vacancies should happen in the Commission of Victualling I might be admitted into that office. I beg that in the multiplicity of your other affairs you will not be unmindful of my request, and provide for me either in that office or in some other manner.

The MARQUIS OF LOTHIAN to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 8. Newb[attle]—It is believed here that the Queen is to make some of the peers of Scotland peers of Britain. If so, I entreat you will be pleased to consider my pretensions, which I chiefly ground upon the Queen's gracious answer to me, which I took for more than a promise, when I made my complaint to her of the hardships I met with when turned out of the House of Peers.

DR. BASIL KENNETT to "DR. WHITE KENNETT, Dean of Peterborough, and minister of Alder-mary Church in London."

1711, June 8, N.S. Leghorn—Having every day for some weeks expected Mr. Taubman, according to the tenor of his letter, dated April

6th, I am to-day surprised with yours of April 26, intimating still new difficulties and delays. As upon his coming I should gladly have retired, so I cannot be sorry to stay while my health permits, and the public service demands. It is still the opinion of the worthy Consul, that for me to leave this place before the arrival, approach, or full appointment of a successor would be to put our privilege to a hazard, whence it might not easily be retrieved. If upon my actual removal it should appear just and honourable to our superiors immediately to fill up the vacancy, it might yet seem invidious, as well as importunate in me, to bring them under such a necessity. I rather think myself bound to wait their time and their pleasure; as, indeed, ashamed, that so much trouble should already have been given them about so inconsiderable a person, though in an affair by no means inconsiderable.

On this side, no doubt has yet been raised in the case of the worthy clergyman, domestic chaplain to the new Envoy at Florence, which though it may hinder that honourable person from giving a concurrent title to the chaplain at Leghorn, yet will not intercept his countenance and protection of which he has been pleased to assure us, with expressions of great earnestness and zeal. So that the business still rests at home, and is to take all its force from her Majesty's royal hand, as well in the beginning and first motion as in the progress and execution.

You will increase your good offices in our behalf, by making our best acknowledgments to our great patrons, whether fathers of the Church or ministers of State and fathers of their country; among the latter, more particularly to him who has been so much distinguished in speaking and acting, and of late in suffering for it; whose recovery from the treacherous wound may well be congratulated, together with the safety of her Majesty, and of the public.

The Honourable Dr. Newton is pleased to continue his favours to me in his absence, and even while he is upon his journey. At his arrival in London, our cause and its solicitors will have the advantage of his immediate representations and authority. I must again beg the assistance of yours, in recommending to him my private and most grateful sense of his generous regards and superior friendship. Indeed, you and my good sister will much oblige me by taking the first occasion of visiting him, and his good and fair family. And then you will oblige yourselves by improving the just visit into a most desirable acquaintance.

I forgot to mention in my last a box of roots, seeds, &c., directed, through your hands, to the Physic Garden at Oxford, and sent by the *Page* galley. If you receive it safe, I must entreat you to open it, and take out a very small box inclosed with a direction to Dr. Newton, which is designed by him for the Reverend Mr. Newton his brother. The larger box you will be pleased to see forwarded to Mr. Rogers of our College, for the use of Mr. Bobart, intimating the honourable person aforesaid to be the founder and donor of this supply, procured by him from the Physic Gardens of Florence and Pisa.

Sir Henry Belasyse to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, June 10—You were pleased to say yesterday that you would not have me insist on the Government of Berwick; but the house of Commons having addressed the Queen that she would be pleased to appoint some persons to enquire into a number and quality of the forces

in Spain and Portugal, &c., I cannot but think that one military man will be necessary in the commission. If so I hope you will think of me.

JEAN GASSION [*alias* Capt. JOHN OGILVIE] to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 10—My little cousin brings your Lordship this letter. There is a little son of mine with her. I do beg of you to look on him. It is the boy that your Lordship told me that you would get into Westminster; I have sent him with my cousin on purpose that you may see him.

Capt. Griffith's wife is come over and perfectly knows all that passed betwixt the Duke of Marlborough and her husband. Her brother the Bishop [Manningham, of Chichester] might easily get it all from her, but he must be managed, for he is a timorous body and will be affrighted at his own shadow. Sir John Macklen is coming up; it were not amiss if he were employed in the army, for he will be faithful to what he engages, for, believe me, it will not be the pension that will keep him tight to you, for you may remember when my Lord Treasurer (Godolphin) did maltreat them he was very near to have begun a rebellion, for he is powerful and well beloved in the Highlands. His wife is dead, and he will be easier managed of that.

J[OHN] LAWS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June [14-]25, N.S. Brussels—A long letter of congratulations on his "advancement to a dignity and station to which the ancienity *(sic)* of your family and the unparalled *(sic)* services you have rendered to the nation so justly entitle you to."

The EARL OF ORRERY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June [14-]25, N.S. Brussels—Congratulations on his elevation.

I have already said so much of my private affairs to H. St. John that I need not repeat anything of them. I only beg to be at some certainty about the peerage.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, June [15-]26, N.S. Amsterdam—Last Saturday five mails arrived together, by which I had your Lordship's of the 22nd past, O.S. I was immediately desired to come to the Hague by the Grand Pensionary, who told me that my Lord Raby was going for England, desired that I might not go till his Excellency's return, and asked who was to mind the Queen's business in my Lord Raby's absence. I told him that Mr. Dayrolles would certainly be the person, to which he was pleased to answer if my Lord Treasurer or Mr. Secretary St. John have anything to communicate to me, I shall be glad it be through you, for Mr. Dayrolles is a great newsmonger, and has not all the discretion which one in his station ought to have, and ordered me to come to him at least once a week. I replied that Mr. Dayrolles was only kept there for the ordinary business, which he had experience enough of, and that it was probable, if the ministry had anything of consequence to communicate to him it might come through my hands, and then he said that my Lord Raby may go over well instructed.

I have this night desired the Pensionaries Vander Dussen and Buys to assist in the last conference I am to have with his Excellency before his departure, and I am extremely glad to find that the Queen is resolved to establish a firm alliance with us, which is to last in time of peace as well as of this heavy war. This word of heavy war gave me an opportunity to acquaint him with that paragraph of your Lordship's letter, in which you are pleased to say that you are willing to enter into methods with the Grand Pensionary for the common good of both nations, and that you hope the States will not neglect another opportunity of a good peace, or if they do they will have no one to blame but themselves. He desired me to say over this twice to him, though he understands English very well, and answered, nothing can be so acceptable to me as to hear my Lord Treasurer's opinion of the present circumstances of affairs, and what can be thought on to bring them into a better posture. I dare not by my office, said he, write to a foreign minister without the communication of the States, which is composed of so many different men and humours, that we would have it in the Paris Gazette next week, it would become so public, or I would write to his Lordship immediately, and entreat the continuance of his correspondence and assistance at this nice juncture, and express my congratulation and joy for the deserved honour and trust bestowed on his Lordship by so good a Queen to so useful and valuable a subject; and charged me to make his compliments, I can assure your Lordship, with much heartiness and sincerity. If I had words to express the joy and satisfaction of my own heart on this happy occasion, I might then in some measure undertake to express the handsome compliment he made on your Lordship's subject at this time, but I shall rather trust to your Lordship's compassion and charity for my ignorance than trouble you with fulsome compliments.

The Grand Pensionary charged me once and again to acquaint you that you might depend upon it that no good or real opportunity should be lost of coming to a peace which, at this time, would be too great a blessing to neglect in any degree, but charged me to be secret, saying, I see and have long seen that you are much trusted, and be sure to merit the trust reposed in you by keeping sacredly secret these our inclinations to a speedy and reasonable peace, for if our enemy should discover our inclination, they would certainly be very "fier," and stand upon such terms as perhaps it would be impracticable and impossible for us to accept of, besides that some of our allies, who have of late shewn much self-interestedness, would make the best shifts for themselves, and leave the Queen and us to deal with the enemy the best we could. I answered that I hoped he had never heard of my tattling; that my friends rather found fault with me that I was over quiet than talkative, and that I hoped both to merit the favour of my patron in England and his, by behaving myself with that fidelity and honesty that became me, and that from my youth I had been educated to.

Then I told him the conference I had with Prince Eugene, who makes me a sort of favourite in his own little affairs. Talking of our Duke, he, the Prince, said he found him mightily altered and dejected, and how could it be otherwise? I imagine in myself that I gave his Highness full satisfaction on this subject, and made plain to him that the Duke had it fully in his own power to make himself easy, that this ministry was resolved to make him as easy in his command as ever, and that I could demonstrate that his army was as well paid as when his favourite Treasurer had the management, and that his Grace ought not to be cast down that he had not the Queen and ministry at present

as subalterns. I gave him so much of this, that he said my Lord Albemarle and I had agreed together to tell him the story one way, and he found he must believe us at last; but then he attacked me again, how could I answer the neglect of the Spanish war. I answered that, if he pleased, I should get translated for him all the present Parliament's proceedings on the Spanish war. But this was not what he wanted, and said that now in thirteen months the army in Spain had had no money from England, that he believed they really designed to abandon Spain. To this I answered that since our misfortune at Villa Vitiosa, where Mr. Stanhope and his army were made prisoners, the Queen had sent thirteen battalions from Britain and Ireland, two thousand horse from Italy, and two or three thousand recruits; that, indeed, the Dutch had sent but a General, and had been long bargaining with Count Sinsendorff for four battalions of Imperialists, but was shifted off from time to time; that the Imperial Court had done nothing. After the victory of Saragossa they were prayed to send over a reinforcement, to enable Count Staremberg and Stanhope to finish the war there, and make a right use of the victories, but that they had done nothing. To which the Prince said they wanted all the men they had for the war of Italy and Hungary. I told him the war of Hungary was now as much as ended, that of Germans and Hungarians who had sworn allegiance to King Charles, there could be 20,000 men brought from that war to assist King Charles. Yes, says he, if you know how to pay them; and then I told him what reasons he had to expect that we should pay them, and what we were to get by this war, which would be too tedious to trouble you with, only I told him that by what I could comprehend, there was at present money remitting to Genoa to support the Duke of Argyll's army. He pretended the Duke of Argyll could find no credit at Genoa, because all the former Spanish bills were yet unpaid, but I found also an answer for this, and told him if the Empire would pay their quota and furnish it, the Queen should shew hers always complete.

I had almost omitted to tell you that the Pensionary has often smilingly said that the Queen was very generous in taking the burden of a German army in Spain on her, and that the States thanked her Majesty for it, but that they were not able to do anything in proportion to it there. Prince Eugene ordered me to make a great many fine compliments to your Lordship, but I pretended that I had only allowance to correspond about money matters, and if I had a fair opportunity I should get his Highness some account how our army in Spain was at present paid.

The Grand Pensionary prevails with him to stay at the Hague till we hear whether the French detach in earnest or not, about which I refer you to the inclosed, which you will be pleased to read when my friend Decker is not present.

Our Admiralty is equipping ten men-of-war in all, they go slowly on, and I believe may serve for some expedition either upon the public or private account. Admiral Somelsdyk, who was much in the West Indies when his father was Governor of Surinam, has made several proposals, and one upon the coast of Mexico particularly. He desires but seven ships of war, and about two thousand men. All this is kept mightily secret here, and nothing is yet firmly resolved upon, but as Sir James Wishart can tell you, I have many and intimate friends about their Admiralty, so that I may come to hear their resolutions pretty early. I fear they will not be kept so secret as Mr. Hill's expedition, which both the French and Dutch are stunned at, and cannot so much

as pretend to guess. Even the Pensionary himself and our Mons. Buys have been pumping at me, to know what I am as ignorant of as they are, to my great pleasure.

Prince Eugene is asking money of the States, I am told this day, and must have twenty-five thousand pounds sterling to maintain his troops, if they will keep them or have him and them stay any longer. This is the trade, and now we have got the King of Prussia to this town to buy china and diamonds, at the Allies' expense, I fear. Mons. Buys sent for me this morning to come to him, having something to say to me, but afterwards sent his excuse, being obliged in the name of this town to attend and compliment the King.

I have a few lines from the gentleman at the Hague that Prince Eugene's orders from his Court are positive to march his army to the Upper Rhine, for that the French were beginning to be numerous there, and by the enclosed you will see how little good we have to expect this campaign in Flanders. The French will certainly ruin Brazil if they can to break the Portuguese from the alliance if possible, and their fleet is gone the 13th instant.

I am afraid I have heartily wearied your Lordship, yet I must say something in praise and respect to your honourable designs for the good of your country by the South Sea project, and before any other think on it. The Greenland fishery is a noble and valuable project for the maintenance and education of sailors, carpenters, and all mechanics who depend upon building of ships, and the great duty on whalebone brought from abroad, which is for ninety-nine years mortgaged, being above the first coast, is a double encouragement for her Majesty's British subjects to go on that trade, and it may be begun without noise, and I am confident only wants a beginning. Sam Shepheard has the best notion both of it and the herring fishing that I found in all England. Lord Halifax once brought him and the Duke of Roxburgh to me to argue about these two branches of the fishing together, and after we had made both plain and practicable, Sir Humphrey [Mackworth] from your Lordship's present *cathedra* knocked all on the head, saying it would make our good friends on this side jealous, and obstruct the beloved war, and so Sir D. Dalrymple and all that corruptible set deserted me.

The Lombard is a noble and valuable project. It is true it is settled here on a double interest., viz., eight per cent., and is a great revenue to the town, but any one may bring in his "paund" for three days' interest, and then redeeming it pays only that three days' interest; but then each town has a cloth hall or manufactory hall, where a weaver can bring his piece of cloth if he finds no occasion to sell it immediately to his mind, and take up as much money as enables him to buy wool or yarn to fall a weaving another piece, and at the hall the piece so "paunded" is often sold at the price put upon it by the first proprietor for money, out of which the hall-keepers deduct the money advanced to the weaver, with an interest of five per cent., or at the rate of five per cent. per annum, of which four per cent. goes to the benefit of the town to whom the hall belongs, and one per cent. for the keeper, as his factorage or commission.

If my private business could allow me to spend time for such informations and intelligence, I believe I could make myself something useful to your Lordship in this way. I know not what a peace may produce, but at present gains are so small and precarious that one of no very great stock must either live frugal or break on his stock.

You will see a hint about a service done lately in the payment of the troops in Mr. Watkins' letter. I must beg leave to act the Jesuit on this occasion, and think that a work of supererogation deserves a little consideration in this world, as they do in heaven.

When these five mails were wanting, the unreasonable foreigners began to grumble, I mean their agents at the Hague, as if a Government could send over bills and credit without wind, Mr. Sweet being hard dunned by them, and though he has got three times the estate by his place that I have, made his complaint to me. I went about to all my friends and borrowed for a few days, till the packets should come in, twenty thousand pounds sterling, which stopped all their mouths. This I hope will merit a word of recommendation from your Lordship in my favour to the remitters, which Sir Theodore Janssen and Mr. Gibbon, who are my good friends, desire I may put your Lordship now in mind of, because it will be of great weight, and Mr. Pels, that great rich man whom I encouraged first to come in, finding matters go so very well under your care, I fear would give me the less share, so that I beg your Lordship may once more put them in mind of me, for seeing I have turned my own small stock and my partner's that way, I must either keep it employed or turned altogether another way. It is, indeed, a business chiefly for a rich man who can live on a moderate interest of his money, but I am now in honour bound to go through with it, and show this Exchange, that the new ministry of England gives credit to private men, and wants not to be supported by them, as the plunderers gave out.

Mr. Watkins, I hope, will not be desired to come to the Hague till the winter, or a treaty come on, for when there was no appearance of a treaty, Lord Townshend let his man Walpole go to his office in England. I must not omit to beg of your Lordship to take as little notice of my discourses with the Pensionary to Lord Raby as is possible. I would not gladly give his Excellency any umbrage, and I fear he is easily touched, though I hope a very little more experience will make all very easy to him here, and every one very easy with him, for his Excellency saw immediately that it was solidity and application with good sense that would prevail here, and not outward show, punctilio, or compliment, which please often a German Prince better than a learned speech or wholesome advice. I have a strong opinion that when the Germans have their Emperor fixed, matters may take a turn from what they are at present, and interests vary a little. I pray God all may end in a good peace.

If you have any small thing in Scotland about the leather or other branch of the revenue to spare to my brother, who is in the Mint there, Sir David Nairne or Dr. Hutton will satisfy you about his capacity. They know him better than I do, for I have only been three months these twenty-two years in Scotland. The sudden death of a brother-in-law, whom I much esteemed, makes this letter very confused, and unfit to approach your hands.

LORD KEEPER HARCOURT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 17—I am extremely solicitous Reading should be well filled. A good man there will be of great use, not only in respect of his function and in discharge of his duty, but as he may gain an interest in that place, which may have a considerable influence in that county. I think Mr. Palmer so much your servant that I can think nothing too good for him, but I doubt he will not be easy there, nor

acceptable to either party, especially to our Church friends. The more I think on Gastrel I wish him the more inclined to accept it. If he will not, and you think Higgins will be taken care of otherwise so as to prevent his residence there and supplying the oure (which I cannot apprehend a Deanery would do. I'm sure 'tis pity it should), another must be thought of. There is a person whom 'tis expected I should own: Dr. Foulks, my son's tutor, he was nephew to Dr. Jane, and was recommended to me as a person of great learning and sobriety. I have but one objection against him, which I can easily believe to be more my son's fault than his. Pray ask Gastrel and your Christ Church servants whether Dr. Foulks be improper, if he will take it and promise to be resident.

The Earl of Manchester to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, June 18—I should be glad to get out of town, but cannot well do it till you have done something in my affair. I had several assurances that something considerable should be done for me upon my undertaking the last embassy [to Vienna], which was much against my own inclination. As you may remember, there were directions to Lord Godolphin to pay me 2,000*l.*, of which afterwards I received but 1,000*l.*; so that now I hope you will procure me 2,000*l.*, which would be very convenient for my affairs at present.

The Earl of Winchilsea to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, June 18—On my Lord Chamberlain signifying to me that I should serve her Majesty at the Board of Trade, I acquainted you how little the salary belonging to that place would answer my attendance, and how inferior it was both in profit and honour to those employments I had before. Upon which you assured me that the Queen did design to make me easy in that particular by increasing my allowance. I beg that you will receive her Majesty's directions herein before she goes to Windsor, that I may know what I am to depend on. My long attendance in town, very much to the prejudice of my own affairs, makes me really to stand in need of some mark of her bounty, and it is with great reluctance that I find myself obliged to own my circumstances require it. I flatter myself from the tokens received of your friendship that you will use your endeavours with the Queen to obtain for me the favour of an advance of 1,000*l.*, to make me easy at my entrance into this employment.

Prince of Orange to the Earl of Oxford.

1711, June [18-]29, N.S. Camp at Lens—Being informed by M. de Vryberg that her Majesty has placed in your hands some papers which relate to a difficulty I unfortunately have with her about some jewels left by William III., to be examined and reported upon by you, I desire to state that these papers will show you that the affair is not a difficult one to settle, seeing that I have left the decision entirely in her Majesty's hands, and that it has been in spite of my wishes that those who had the direction of my affairs during my minority have taken any legal process in the matter. *French.*

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"R[eceived], July 11, of M. Vryberg's Secretary, 23 days. M. Vryberg was dead and the Prince drowned before I received this."

LORD NORTH AND GREY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June [18-]29, N.S. Camp at Lens—Congratulations. Give me leave to put you in mind of the lieutenancy of Cambridgeshire which I asked for last winter, now vacant by the Duke of Bedford's death. I am an ill beggar, but like yourself shall endeavour to merit her Majesty's favour.

Postscript.—Pardon the ill writing of a left hand, (such ?) as the war left me.

[JOHN DRUMMOND] to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1711, June [19-]30, N.S.—I will send your Lordship some terrible complaints about payment of the Lisbon bills, and now enclose a long letter for Mr. Secretary St. John, in answer to one received from him. Will write all particulars, but our Ambassador must know nothing of my being let into the secret on this side till he returns. I beg leave to enclose this bill of lading, which was neglected; it was a present to me from Prince Eugene, ten dozen of Burgundy, and I find it is too good for Amsterdam. I humbly entreat your acceptance of it, for your young men, but keep my claret yourself.

[DANIEL DE FOE* to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, June 19—I am very unhappy, not in my private affairs only, which are melancholy and ruinous from the discontinuance of your favour, but in not having the occasion and honour of laying before your Lordship several matters of importance relating to the public.

I had once the honour of your promise that if I did anything offensive you would be yourself my reprover, and would not be disobliged till I had first your mind for my government. God is my witness if I knew anything in which I should displease you, I would avoid it diligently.

If I am not so useful a servant as I would be, I hope I have been useful, and still may be so, and it must be want of opportunity, not fidelity or diligence, if it is otherwise.

I humbly lay my case at your feet. Your Lordship knows, and I presume remembers, that when you honoured me with your recommendation to the late Lord Treasurer, my Lord offered me a very good post in Scotland, and afterwards offered me to be Commissioner of the Customs there, and that I did not refuse those offers; but it being your opinion, as well as his Lordship's, that I might be more serviceable in a private capacity, I chose rather to depend upon her Majesty's goodness that I might be most serviceable, than to secure my family a maintenance and be rendered incapable to serve her Majesty's interest.

Since I had the honour of returning into your Lordship's service and protection you were pleased to speak for me to her Majesty and to assure me her Majesty had been pleased to appoint the paymaster of my pension, and you had the goodness to supply me the first quarter. Had I not the importuning circumstance of a large family, a wife and six children, I could serve your Lordship twenty years without the least supply rather than thus press upon your goodness. But my weakness permits me to say no more, a family often ruined and now depending upon your Lordship's goodness presses me beyond measure. I humbly ask your pardon for it.

I am your daily petitioner for an opportunity in but six words to lay before you some things relating to new uneasinesses in Scotland;

* Signature torn off.

something relating to the trade to the South Seas, which abundance speak evil of because they do not understand; and something relating to the poor Keelmen at Newcastle whose oppressions seem reserved for your hand to put an end to. I beg a few minutes at your leisure.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford.—"Claude Guilot."

COLONEL J. GRAHAM to the LORD HIGH TREASURER.

[1711,] June 19—I thank you for your kind reception the other day, and the liberty you gave me to tell you my condition and send you the enclosed paper, a copy of what I gave the Queen. I rest contented with assurances your Lordship gave me, and wish all people would be as reasonable in their expectations. I only desire from the Queen's goodness and your favour, to be kept from sinking, that I may appear in winter to serve her what I can. Without you help me I shall not be able to be here.

I forgot when I saw you last to mention to your Lordship again Doctor Todd who is by all that know him thought the most proper man to succeed the Dean of Carlisle if removed. The gentleman Mr. Lawson presses for is by no means fit for that station, and should you be prevailed upon to put him there will find your mistake too late.

Enclosure.

Since the loss of my unfortunate Master now twenty-two years ago I have undergone innumerable misfortunes. In the last reign persecuted on many occasions, prosecuted on the account of the East Indian and African Stocks and many actions brought for my Master the King's debts, forced to pay into the Exchequer eighteen thousand pounds I had before paid by my Master's order, ere the Crown was declared vacant, most of it whilst he was at Rochester. My brother Preston's misfortunes, many ill accidents to myself, my children's miscarriages, the burning my house, and other things, occasioned loss in my fortune above forty thousand pounds.

This was the true state of my circumstances when your Majesty came to the Crown.

I had then, Madam, contented myself to live as my small substance would allow me, but was persuaded by a great man to try my fortune again, and concern myself in elections for the interest of such as would and did carry themselves with respect and duty to your Majesty. I have on that occasion and constant attendance here much lessened the little the severity of the last reign had left me.

My wife who died of late did hope as I did one time or other your Majesty would consider two old servants to the Crown; till last winter I never asked anything, nor would I now was not my fortune reduced very low.

This being, Madam, the truth of my case myself and it are humbly submitted to your Majesty's pleasure.

NEWS LETTER.

1711, June 19, London—Letters from Edinburgh say that the great fleet of merchantmen, lately arrived at Leith from Holland, have brought over a great quantity of French wines, of which it is said the merchants have run ashore near six hundred tuns without paying custom, and the officers of the Customs having seized forty-seven hogsheads of that French

wine the mob arose to take it from them, but the said officers being assisted by the soldiers of the garrison carried off the wine, and securing it in a cellar placed two sentinels at the door to guard it that night. But the owners coming under pretext of being officers of the Customs gave them money to drink, the better to watch the wine, and joined some others to them to assist them, who afterwards took an opportunity to surprise and disarm the soldiers, and before daylight carried off the wine clear, except a few hogsheads thereof, that were seized again next day by the officers, by which means they hope once more to drink wine there for twelve pence a quart.

They continue here to talk of several great changes that will suddenly be made in the several offices as well as in the Excise and Customs, especially in the latter. All the Commissioners are to be removed except Sir John Worden, and it is said that the merchants in the city that are well affected to the present ministry will succeed them, among others Sir William Ashurst will be one of the new Commissioners.

The learned Mr. Henry Dodwell is dead.

William Ettrick, Member of Parliament for Christchurch in Hampshire, is appointed counsel learned in the law for the affairs of Admiralty and Navy in the room of George Townsend.

The Deanery of Christ Church in Oxford, worth 800*l.* per annum, is not yet disposed of. Some say it will be given to Dr. Atterbury, because he is a great friend of the Earl of Oxford, but others are of opinion that it will be given to Dr. Smalridge, who is of that college.

Her Majesty has appointed Miss Masham, daughter of Mrs. Masham, a girl of two years old, to be chief Ranger of St. James's Park, which is worth about 1,000*l.* per annum, in the room of the Lord Godolphin.

We hear that the Duke of Newcastle is to be made Lord Lieutenant of the county of Middlesex in the room of the late Duke of Bedford.

It continues that the Queen will go to Bath towards the latter end of the next month.

A patent is come to the Seals for creating the Lord Raby, Earl of Strafford. His Lordship is suddenly to be married, and afterwards will return to his post at the Hague, and if so it is not likely that Mr. Paget should be sent her Majesty's Plenipotentiary to Holland, as was said. We hear that upon advice of the Brest squadron, consisting of fourteen men-of-war, being sailed from Brest after Sir Hovenden Walker to America, Sir John Leake has detached from his squadron six men-of-war to go and reinforce that Admiral, who, with those ships and four men-of-war more that are ordered to reinforce him from New England, will have nineteen men-of-war, so that he need not be afraid of the Brest squadron. And some here pretend to have advice that the Brest squadron is gone to attack the Portuguese in Brazil.

The Duke of Newcastle has purchased the manor of Marybone of Esquire Austin for 17,000*l.*, which is said to be worth 25,000*l.*

They begin to pay some of the arrears due to the Guards, some of our men-of-war are paying, and the officers of the Household are also to be paid part of the arrears due to them. There are no less than four Commissioners appointed for the two Lotteries.

[*Addressed:*—"For William Guidot, Esquire, a Member of Parliament. To be left with Mr. Kinchin, at the Crown Inn, at Basingstoke."]

JAMES CRAGGS the younger to the LORD HIGH TREASURER.

1711, June 20—Your Lordship receives every day such multitudes of formal petitions that I have ventured this way to inform you of a

case which, if I am not too partial, I humbly hope may deserve your consideration.

For these two years and more I have lived upon my own credit, without receiving any part of my allowances, by which means I actually pay great interests for what is due to me. This hardship is indeed common to me with many others employed abroad, but I differ with them in having made several expensive journeys for her Majesty's special service, which I represented in a memorial to the late Lords of the Treasury, who in consideration of it ordered a warrant for 400*l.* to be prepared for her Majesty's signature. Though that sum was far short of my expenses, I never received any part of it, but on the contrary, am informed the warrant did not pass.

At the beginning of last campaign in Catalonia, I took the field with the King of Spain, at a very great expense, and though I gave different petitions for an allowance to the late Lords of the Treasury, I never could obtain any, but I do with all submission refer it to your Lordship's justice, that if there be any one precedent of any minister who has received no consideration for such service, it may be alleged against me. And though it should not be found, yet if there has been any one allowance less than another, I shall with great acknowledgment receive it as a rule for mine, notwithstanding the great price of everything in Spain.

Since I last arrived in England, and during the time your Lordship was confined by that execrable attempt made against your person, her Majesty was graciously pleased to appoint me her Envoy Extraordinary to the King of Spain, which I looked upon as a mark of your favour to me in having recommended or approved of it. I received accordingly (and paid the fees of) my credentials, instructions, and privy seal, by which last I was entitled as usual to 500*l.* equipage money and a quarter's advance. As I had no reason but to depend on this, I bought whatever was necessary and usual to live abroad according to the character her Majesty had honoured me with, but was surprised to find some time after that a warrant already signed by my Lord Poulett and Mr. Paget was lost, and that I could not obtain a new one for these allowances, though it is pursuant to her Majesty's privy seal and is a thing of course. This is also a new and heavy debt upon me, and confirms to me what I hear, that it will be for her Majesty's service to employ somebody else at that court, which not being signified to me by a Secretary of State, I can take no measures in my own private affairs, nor diminish the expense I am at by having a house and family at Barcelona, with such other charges as it will become me to retrench when I am out of her Majesty's service.

I can pretend to no other merit but my zeal and duty to serve the Queen, which I shall be very proud to express in the faithful discharge of this employment; but if it does not suit with her Majesty's affairs to honour me with her commands, I shall with the humblest resignation submit to her royal pleasure. But as I am not sensible to have done anything deserving to be ruined, I hope your Lordship's goodness will prevent me suffering in so great a degree as I must unavoidably, if I am not paid what is due to me, and allowed the expenses I have been at in the above-mentioned articles.

If I could have represented my case to your Lordship in fewer words I should have had a due regard to the weight of affairs that lie upon you, but I flatter myself from your goodness that you will not only grant my petition but forgive my importunity.

SIR M. WARTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 21—I did myself the honour to wait on you the other day, between your levée and couchée, and I hope that person of wonderful prudence and gravity that presides at your gate did me the right to acquaint you with it.

A gentleman who married a relation of mine presented himself to you, Mr. Norris. If you will favour him with an employ you will very much oblige me.

Postscript.—I hear your rooms are crowded with the common prostitutes, but I do not doubt they'll find themselves mistaken to think that counterfeit smiles and looks can introduce their ulcerated hearts into your service.

The DUKE OF ARGYLL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, [June 21-]July 1, N.S. Barcelona—I take the liberty to congratulate your Lordship upon your late honours. You have no friend who can rejoice more at your good fortune than myself, and if I have not convinced you of my being your servant, it has been for want of power, not inclination.

I hope you will forgive me if immediately after having made you my compliments I venture to beg that I may feel a kind effect of your power in releasing me from the galley in which I am chained at present. It is not my business to inquire how we come to be reduced to our present miserable condition, but it is very natural and, I hope too, reasonable to desire to be freed from pains which I don't know that I have deserved to suffer.

Your Lordship has now too many affairs of consequence upon your hands to allow of my giving you a long trouble. I shall therefore desire to refer you to what I have writ my Lord Dartmouth upon the subject of public affairs, and as to private, I shall only beg of your Lordship that your interest may obtain me the favour of her Majesty's leave to return home without any delay.

Postscript.—Whilst I was doing myself the honour to write this letter to your Lordship, the Portugal Ambassador desired to speak with me, and has represented the misery of his master's troops, in the strongest terms, desiring at last that since there was not wherewithal to clear what was due to them and pay them regularly for the future, that I would order them to be transported into Portugal, on board the shipping bound for Lisbon. This he pressed very much, but upon my telling him that it was impossible for me to make a step of that nature without orders from the Queen my mistress, he contented himself with my promising to represent what he had said to you, which I now do, and will freely give my opinion, that if half their number were sent to replace them of British cavalry, it would be for the Queen's interest to take them at their word, because they are very bad troops; not but they have indeed sufficient reason to complain at present, having great sums due to them, and by that means being in great misery, as all the rest of the troops here are.

WILLIAM PENN to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 22—The enclosed is a letter to me from a person perfectly versed in that branch of the Revenue relating to the Wine Licence Office

and that of the Hawkers; and I dare assure thee a more able person belongs not to the Revenue among the subalterns. I earnestly beg thy perusal of it, and utmost expedition, for the nature of the thing, and season, calls for it. I will make good what I also offered, for thy own accommodation and for a nest-egg for the Queen of 100,000*l.* per annum (to the Crown), now so low in land revenues. No man has a better collection of proposals for augmenting the Crown's revenue than I had the four years of King James's reign, as careless as I was of myself, because I would not the world should think I used his favour that way, till I saw him well established with a Parliamentary satisfaction.

My great friend, please to remember and resolve.

SIR ROGER BRADSHAIGH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 22—The adjournment of the House for above fourteen days has laid me open to the law, and I have already been sent to that unless I immediately pay several debts upon which are obtained judgments, they will be put in execution to-morrow or next day. Do but imagine the confusion I am in, and the reasons I have had to hope for your favour before this time. My house will be rifled, my self and family exposed, and at a time when all my wife's relations and acquaintances are visiting her upon her lying-in.

Lord Rivers, I am sure, will speak to you when he next sees you, but that may not happen to be in time to be of service to me; therefore I beg I may know where to wait on you, or what you think fit to direct me to do, in order to receive what can only at this time bring relief to me.

GENERAL G. CHOLMONDELEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 23—I humbly beg leave to acquaint your Lordship, upon what you were pleased to say to me yesterday morning about Richmond, that this manor, with all lands belonging to it, hath several times been granted by the Crown, particularly in King Charles II.'s reign, to Sir Ed. Villiers, who was bought out by King James II. In his late Majesty King William's reign Mr. Latten obtained a grant of almost all the demesne lands for a term of years; and sold the same to the Duke of Ormond. Her present Majesty was pleased to renew the same grant to the Duke for three lives, with an addition of some lands left out of Mr. Latten's lease. What still remains in the Crown of this manor are some rents of houses, quit-rents and perquisites and profits of courts, which are not considerable, and will not be above 200*l.* per annum value to me if the Queen is pleased to grant it to me.

I have had the honour to serve the Crown these thirty years, and am one of the oldest Lieut.-Generals in the Army, though the Duke of Marlborough is pleased not to let me serve, no more than many other Generals, for no reason but to make room for his own creatures. I have great sums that are due to me from the Crown by arrears and otherwise in the late reign; and upon these considerations I did petition her Majesty for this manor, where my family hath long been settled, and I have spent great sums in buildings. However, if your Lordship is of opinion it is not advisable for her Majesty to make this grant, I shall submit to your great wisdom, and hope for your protection and favour to me in something else.

LORDS OF THE COUNCIL to the EARL OF OXFORD,
Custos Rotulorum of Radnor.

1711, June 23. Kensington—Whereas we did, by letters of 25 April last, require you to call upon the justices of Radnorshire to impress and send to her Majesty's fleet all straggling seamen, watermen, lightermen, bargemen, and fishermen, who are of able bodies fit for service at sea, it is now represented to her Majesty in Council, by the Lords of the Admiralty, that this method of procuring seamen within the inland counties is very expensive, and has not answered the end, for that the men so impressed have been generally landsmen, or otherwise unfit for service in the fleet, we do require you to direct the said justices to forbear the further putting in execution the aforesaid letter.

Signed by the Dukes of Buckingham, Beaufort, Queensberry, Schomberg and Leinster, and Hamilton; and the Earl of Winchilsea.

SIR ROWLAND GWYNNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, [June 23-]July 3, N.S. Hamburgh—Congratulations.

It is manifestly in your Lordship's power now to restore me to her Majesty's favour. You may remember that we were born neighbours, that there was always a friendship between your father and mine, and that your father did continue it to me all his life; and you are a witness of my conduct in Parliament for many years, that it was ever moderate, and that I equally supported the prerogative and the liberties of the people. So that I hope for your favour, since you know my uprightness and integrity, and I will ever own the friendship you show for me and the protection you give me.

SIR WILLIAM WYNDHAM to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 23—When I did myself the honour this morning to put you in mind of the memorial I troubled you with some days since, in relation to my being put upon the Establishment of the Crown in the post I have the honour to serve the Queen in, I saw so much company about you that I thought it improper to detain you then to acquaint you with the difference of the foot Mr. Chetwynd stood upon, and the establishment of the household; and also the necessity there is of my knowing the Queen's pleasure in it, if possible, before I go into the country.

Mr. Chetwynd was servant to the Prince, as Master of his Hounds, and received a salary from the Prince, in the settling of which no regard was had to any former establishment when the Prince died. The Queen was pleased to take the dogs herself, and Mr. Chetwynd was told that he was to be sole master of the hounds (for in the Prince's time Sir Jewster Peyton was jointly with him), but that he was to continue them upon the same foot they were upon in the Prince's time.

I pretend no particular merit why this thing should be altered upon my account; but as I know Mr. Chetwynd was continually complaining of the difficulties he found in that small allowance, I thought it was more proper for me to represent this upon my first coming into the employment than to be dissatisfied afterwards, for I assure your Lordship now I have represented it, whatever the Queen determines in this thing I will cheerfully submit to, without assuming the impertinence of thinking I have any hardship put upon me.

The season of the year grows on so fast that if the Queen does make any alteration, I should know it as soon as possible, to be able to put it in practice against the time she hunts; for as there ought to be a much greater attendance upon the Queen when she goes out than there is, though 'tis impossible there can be more, if 'tis continued upon the foot Mr. Chetwynd had it, I have sought out proper servants for that purpose, which I can neither retain nor discharge before I know the Queen's pleasure, and, I beg pardon for mentioning it, my own affairs press me to be in the country next week, where I must suit my own equipage according as this is determined.

I ask a thousand pardons for giving your Lordship so much trouble, but as I am sensible that 'twas through your partiality to me that I came into her Majesty's service, I flatter myself I shall not want your assistance in anything that may enable me to appear in it with that reputation that should attend one that you have been pleased so particularly to take notice of, with so little desert as I can pretend to, and so short an appearance as I have made in the world.

ED. PEARSON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, June 24, London—Of the disaffected party in Ireland those who pretend to comply with the Ministry seem to have prevented the calling of a new Parliament. Many continue in the Council, in the Revenue, &c., whereby they are still able to support and promote their friends and even to screen them from justice, of which there has been a very remarkable instance.

Dominick Langton, a poor clergyman in the county of Meath, who petitioned the Lords Justices and Council, setting forth that there was an association of several gentlemen against her Majesty and the present Ministry; and complaining that he had been commanded by one Mayors, a justice of peace, not to preach obedience to her Majesty and that he had been insulted in the church for doing it, is ruined by the interest of these men.

I doubt not but your Lordship has heard what the Archbishop of Dublin said in the Council Chamber, before the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, viz.: Guiscard's attempt and death puts me in mind of the story of Piso. Piso employed a ruffian to kill the tyrant Nero; the ruffian miscarried in the attempt and Piso himself stabbed the ruffian lest he should discover him. His Grace is most intimate with the creatures of the late Ministry particularly Major General Gustavus Hamilton, Broderick and Connelly and is very acceptable to Papists.

Major General Hamilton and Connelly are still Privy Councillors and the chief supporters of the Whig faction, they have greatest interest in the Province of Ulster, near Londonderry, Donegal, Ballyshannon and Enniskillen. These two in my Lord Bishop of Raphoe's house, before his Lordship, Lord Chief Baron Rochfort and other gentlemen said, the Dissenters were fools if they would draw their swords against the Pretender, till the Test and Penal laws were taken off. They never met with any opposition till my Lord Bishop of Raphoe came among them, and have used his Lordship barbarously. They have engaged several gentlemen in their interest, Sir Ralph Gore, &c. Their chief instrument is Thomas Knox, a justice of the peace and Colonel of the militia in the county of Donegal. This Knox has a small estate of his own, and manages as great an estate as any in Ireland, now in possession of the heirs of Major General Cunningham, to whom Connelly is guardian

and uncle by marriage. Upon the late change of the Ministry he industriously suggested that it would bring in the Pretender, and cause such troubles, that there would be no safety in these Kingdoms, advising his acquaintance to sell *all* and go with him to New England.

Connelly has hitherto so modelled the Boroughs in that country that he has made the Burgesses of Parliament in most corporations; and by the interest of the Freeholders in his own, Cunningham's and Hamilton's estates, Knights of the shire for several counties. But, in case of a new Parliament, he will not probably have the same success. I have got a perfect account of his arbitrary turning out and putting in of Burgesses in several Boroughs, particularly Killybegs and Donegal, and such an interest is formed as may defeat his management of the future. Beside, it is expected that the right proprietors of the estate now in Cunningham's possession will soon recover it, whereupon the interest of the friends of the Ministry even in that country, will be superior to Hamilton's and Connelly's.

I have presumed to give your Lordship so particular an account of the North of Ireland because rebellion usually first breaks forth there; and I have heard men of the best character say that, were Hamilton and Connelly, and all their creatures displaced and succeeded by honest men, it would strengthen the interest of the Government in the weakest and most exposed part.

Sir William St. Quintan, a Commissioner of the Revenue in Ireland, said in Lucas's coffee-house in Dublin, before Tho. Pooley Esq., etc. that her Majesty's hereditary right was never recognised in Parliament. Colonel Southwell, Colonel Long, and Mr. Daniel, a clergyman, said the same, reflecting on the address of the Bishop and Clergy of London.

Most of the Commissioners of the Revenue in Ireland are such as Sir William is and have not a little strengthened their faction all over that Kingdom by preferring men of their own principles. In Killybegs there are three Burgesses belonging to the Revenue put in by Connelly.

I humbly beg your Lordship's pardon for this trouble, fearing that I have not writ what is worth your Lordship's perusing. I am acquainted with the better sort in all parts of Ireland, and had I when I came hither thought to have the honour of being known to so great and worthy a minister, should have been able to give your Lordship a better account. I shall hereafter take more notice of affairs, if it may be acceptable to your Lordship.

Enclosure.

Privy Councillors of Ireland in the interest of the late Ministry are:—The Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Blessington, Bishop of Clogher, Gustavus Hamilton, and William Connelly, Esqs.

The Archbishop of Dublin borrowed Records from the Primate and destroyed them; and the Records of the College relating to his Grace are also destroyed. He said in the House of Lords he did not know what the Act of Uniformity meant, and at his visitation declared he did not expect conformity from his clergy. He was agent for Lord Wharton against the Convocation, his Grace, the Lord Cavan, and Lord Blessington managed for Lord Wharton in the House of Lords.

Mr. Whitway, a Master of Arts of Dublin College, being accused of reflecting on the memory of King William, the University referred it to the Archbishop of Dublin. His Grace writ by way of report to the Vice-Chancellor, the Bishop of Clogher, that he had examined

Jameyson, Bowrow, and Carman, and found that Whitway was guilty. Jameyson, Bowrow, and Carman, being examined, denied publicly at the trial in the College that ever his Grace had spoken to them about Whitway, which with much more of this nature can be proved of his Grace.

The Bishop of Clogher, in the House of Lords, made several speeches in favour of Dissenters and Quakers, &c.

[Daniel] De Foe to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, June 26—I am backward to trouble your Lordship at such a time of hurry as this, yet I thought it my duty to lay before you in general only what seems necessary for you to be informed of since my last. As first, the affair of the provost and magistrates of Edinburgh with the Custom House officers, of which I enclosed an abstract according to your commands. The magistrates say they have received some threatening message or letter on that occasion, telling them they shall be sent for up to answer before the Council for their behaviour to the Custom House men. This they believe neither your Lordship nor her Majesty has been made acquainted with and desire your protection, of which I shall give you a further account when I may have the honour to wait on you.

The next is the constant fears of the good people of the North about the Pretender and the French Squadron, occasioned rather by the insults and openness of the Jacobite party there, than any intelligence of the thing, which fears are increased they say by the naked condi ion of Scotland as to troops, having no troops that can be drawn into the field but one battalion of foot, and three regiments of dragoons, one of which is but half a regiment.

I hinted something also about the military government in Scotland and the affairs of superiorities, which, however weighty at this time, I adjourn till I have your commands.

I would gladly have spoken six words to your Lordship on the subject of the South Sea affair, in which I persuade myself I may do some service in print.

J[ohn] D[rummond] to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, [June 27-]July 7, N.S. Amsterdam—Whilst I was at the Hague, the Grand Pensionary told me that you had been pleased to express yourself in such obliging terms on his subject that he could not forbear troubling you with a letter which he would gladly have sent under my cover had I been then at the Hague. I did not omit to assure him how acceptable it would be to your Lordship, and he ordered me to assure you that though by some he may have been thought a favourer of the former ministry, yet upon his honour and reputation he had never wrote a letter to Lord Godolphin, Lord Sunderland, neither any of them. My answer was that I was the more convinced by this declaration how agreeable it would be to you to receive this particular mark of his friendship and esteem, for which you had so great a value. I asked who was to be sent in room of Vrybergen; his answer was that every one was willing but not every one proper to go at this time, and therefore he had only sent a permission to Vrybergen to return and not a demission, lest the province of Zealand according to their privilege should supply his place, and he wanted to send one of this province, but the person was not yet fixed upon. I mentioned

your Lordship's sincere friend Buys, but he said it was impracticable, for the ministers of the Allies had shewn already so much jealousy over Lord Raby's going over, that to send M. Buys it would confirm them in an opinion that something of peace was carrying on, M. Buys being one of the treating Pensionaries, and cannot be spared at present for domestic affairs. I wish he could have resolved on M. Buys, for he has often said to me, could I but pass three hours with our friend, what great good would it do, but I find I must not think on it, both for the jealousy of the German and other ministers and the necessity of my being at home. I proposed to him to take a trip incognito, but I find it cannot be.

I have had a great deal of honour shewn me on your Lordship's account; I have been felicitated with the due preferments her Majesty has been pleased to bestow on you as my friend and patron by the greatest body of our magistracy and Lords of the Admiralty. I promised to acquaint you with their kindness, assuring them that they were pleased to do me too much honour, and that there was nothing I could be more proud of had I but a just right to believe that I could deserve the friendship and protection of your Lordship, who had done so many good and great things for his Queen and country, and that this State might now rest assured of a firm and lasting union and friendship with England while the Queen lived and your Lordship had so large a share in the management of affairs, and that it would be found in the end that some men had not so much deserved their applause and the court that had been made to them. They cut me short on this subject, and said they wanted now nothing to convince them farther on whom they were to depend for disinterested friendship, and then dropping off gradually, I was left with two and then with one, who came upon a discourse I little expected, and less that they would have been so plain on the subject. I had also a great deal of light given me at the Hague, but all under promise of secrecy, they seemed to insinuate that my Lord Ambassador was gone over very well instructed with their inclinations, and would, they hoped, return as fully provided with the Queen's, that in case the enemy should come to make any proposals, England and they should be able to talk as from one mouth.

Here I shall make a little digression, lest I forget entirely to mention it to your Lordship. The Grand Pensionary seemed to hint as if there was someone who endeavoured to insinuate in England that they were dealing under hand with the enemy, and that he could not discover from whence such malicious insinuations proceeded, unless it was from those officious people who were bringing him every day their correspondence with Monsieur Voisin and other French favourites, all which people and their letters he received, and heard, but never employed any of them, but on the contrary discouraged their corresponding, and to some who were earnest to write an answer as if it were from him, he told them that there were preliminaries fixed, and if the enemy had anything to propose or to expect it must be on that foot; and therefore in my humble opinion there is nothing here in real agitation with the enemy, but they seem to have concerted what they expect from their friends, and my intelligence and conversation have made plain to me what I am now to say in as few words as possible to your Lordship and to you alone on which I depend, viz.:—

They see a necessity of sinking considerably under the preliminaries, they see no hopes of driving King Philip out of Spain,

and therefore a partage must be thought on and concerted in conjunction with the Queen, if possible, to save to King Charles Catalonia, Naples, Sicily, and the other islands in the Mediterranean, the Milanese, and the Spanish Netherlands, as they were in the late King of Spain's time, and as much more of the kingdom of Spain as they can come at, all this must be well secured and put out of the power of France to infringe. The trade to the Spanish West Indies must be secured as formerly through Spain, and France to have no more privilege there than we, a firm alliance must be made between England, Holland, and the Empire, that as we join in a peace, so on the least grievance we may join again to support the treaty in every respect. They desire of their friends that the treaty of Barrier may be secured and confirmed to them, that England may abandon Gibraltar, Port Mahon, and all other possessions they may at present be possessed of within the King of Spain's dominions in Europe. After all this I asked what was to become of Dunkirk; the answer was they knew not how to come at it, that they would gladly have it and much more demolished, but how to come at them they saw no hopes; they would gladly have some towns of security from France. I asked whether those towns were to be garrisoned by the States troops alone or by the Queen's and States' forces. All the answer made me was that when matters were come a greater length they would easily agree that with the Queen.

I leave all this to your Lordship's wise consideration, and I again beg that I and my friends who trust me may be safe. I could wish to have the honour of some answer by which I may direct my own discourse, but I dare not own that I have wrote any thing of this nature, though your Lordship should order me to give a particular answer to every part of it.

This day at the Admiralty was proposed a South Sea Company to be exerted by way of subscription, it found ingression, but is kept a very great secret. I cannot at this distance tell your Lordship how I came by it, a part of the project is formed in Surinam, on which this Company is to act. When it comes to a farther proposal or ripeness, I hope to be able to inform you early of it, and I humbly beg two lines from you that I may know that this is come safe. Mr. Andrew Archer, the Warwickshire gentleman whom you design abroad, has wrote me for some very useful instruction in the affair he is going about; I hope to be able to give him satisfaction, he is a real honest man for aught I could ever find, and scandalous abuses have been committed.

Postscript.—That you may see what is doing in the Army, I send you the inclosed. The judge had complained of the "Examiner's" severity on the Duke, I told him the "Medley" and "Observator" were patronised and promoted by the Duke's nearest relations. Your Lordship will see his answer, and what a fine heir there is to Northumberland house.

Col. Horace Walpole to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, June 27—I find your Lordship is not inclinable to gratify my ambition in an employment. I design for Norfolk to-morrow, but cannot forbear once more telling you how much surprised I was to find the favour showed by Lord Paulett to his nephew, Sir John Woodhouse, about a general receiver of Norfolk placed to my account, who had not the least share or knowledge of that affair until Sir John

upon going into the country desired I would get one of the receivers altered, he having upon a severe fit of sickness declined it; and it is not yet done.

It will not be understood by my friends in the country how Sir Charles Turner, one of the most zealous opposers of your Lordship, should be continued in his employment even contrary to his inclination and expectation, as he himself says, and I, who have been as serviceable in my country to you as any person in it, should not be able to prevail with you to bestow that employment on me. However, I will not suffer myself to doubt your intentions in providing for me in some short time.

COL. HORACE WALPOLE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1711,] June 29—I received last night a letter from the Steward of Norwich, who desires I would ask your Lordship to introduce Col. Semons and Capt. Blyth, both aldermen of that city, to her Majesty with their address. 'Tis also hinted that it would be of use to our party that Semons was knighted; he has better than 2,000*l.* per annum, he is a brewer, and has always been hearty in our interest.

VISCOUNT DUPPLIN to his father-in-law [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1711, June 30.] Saturday, eight o'clock. York Buildings—I believe this will come to you by a servant of the Duke of Atholl's, who sent for me about an hour ago in great haste. I went to wait of his Grace and found him mighty uneasy that he was kept in town so long after the rising of the Parliament, that he could never speak with my Lord Treasurer, and that he expected to have had his money long before this time, and a world of other complaints. He was so very high in his way of expressing himself that at last he pulled out two letters that I had written to his Grace about the time of the last elections, wherein I assured him that his early endeavours upon that turn to serve her Majesty were very acceptable to her and all her subjects here. He told me he had kept those letters and one that he had from yourself, in which he said you had told him a great deal more of the kind acceptance of his services than I had troubled him with, and that he showed me mine that I might not forget what I had said. I was not very well pleased to be treated in this manner, but told his Grace that I wrote nothing to him but what I knew to be true, and that I remembered the contents of those letters very well without looking them over again. He said he did not doubt but that I had very good ground to write what I did, for my Lord Treasurer's letter was in a great deal more positive terms and more extraordinarily kind though to the same purpose. After a good deal of discourse of this kind he said he was just going to write to your Lordship, and desired that I would write to you with the same messenger to repeat to you his hearty concurrence with you in the Queen's affairs this winter, and that he hoped you would bring her Majesty's commands with relation to him to town with you that he may go for Scotland as soon as possible.

WILLIAM VANBRUGH to SIR JOHN STANLEY at the Cockpit, Whitehall.

1711, June 30. Duke Street, Westminster—In answer to Mr. Charlton's complaint I pray his Grace the Lord Chamberlain may be

acquainted that the Comptroller's office in which I serve was first constituted in the beginning of his late Majesty's reign, on occasion of some mismanagements in the Treasurer of the Chambers; that among other instructions it is ordered that the Comptroller is to make out debentures, in pursuance of which the Treasurer is to pay the money. For these debentures a fee of ten shillings for each hundred pounds has been demanded and paid, in accordance with the rule and practice in the Cofferer's office; this is the most I ever asked of any person, and I have refused to take it when offered from poor people, oftener than it has been scrupled to pay me by any others. As to Mr. Charlton's case I asked of him ten shillings, no more in proportion than is paid by the Captain, Ensign, and Exons of the same Band, who paid always, the Captain a guinea, Ensign five shillings, and an Exon two shillings and sixpence each quarter. It is true that he formerly paid but five shillings, yet I then told him I expected he would do like the rest for the future. I hope his Grace will not think this an exaction on Mr. Charlton, and if I might have the favour of waiting on him could readily answer any objections and satisfy him of the usefulness of this Office for her Majesty's service.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, July 1. Kensington—Having every morning that your Lordship was to be seen since the rising of the Parliament done myself the honour to wait on you, or sent my son, Tullibardine, to receive your commands, I had ground by what you were pleased to say to expect some short time to wait on you. But now that your Lordship is at Windsor, give me leave to entreat you not to forget before your return to put the Queen in mind of the early, seasonable, and forward appearance I made in reporting her Majesty and her new Ministers, in the letter I wrote to her Majesty about the time of the dissolution of the last Parliament; and of the exact care and pains I took to follow out what I then wrote about the elections, and then my constant concerning in what related to her Majesty's service, and support of her Ministry, in the House of Lords these eight months that I have been here. And also the offer I have made, in conjunction with the clans, of so considerable a body of our men, to serve the Queen.

The first of these services I have mentioned was so very acceptable to the Queen, as appears by your Lordship's and my Lord Dupplin's letters written to me at that time, that her Majesty was pleased to declare over and over, that she would never forget so great and seasonable a mark of the affection and duty I had done to her Majesty.

General Hans Hamilton to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, July [2-]13, N.S. Lens—Though I have been a considerable time in the camp, I would not trouble your Lordship with anything from thence till I had perfectly informed myself of the state of affairs there which I must confess I rejoice to see so much altered from what they were the last campaign. The regular payment of subsistence (what we have not been used to the two last years) has so much obliged the generality of our officers, being what affects them the most, that I find

them very easy and very well satisfied, for I am of opinion some pains have been taken to make them believe things would have been much worse than they were. 73 seems highly pleased, and diverts himself every day at picket, nor do I see any alteration in his countenance, he is commonly civil to everybody, but his private and intimate conversation is generally shared by 76, 89, and 90, they have access to him upon all occasions, this favour others cannot pretend to.

I find that till the Queen did your Lordship justice in the deserved honours she was pleased to confer upon you (which I beg leave sincerely to congratulate you upon), there were great hopes amongst our wise noddles of a comprehension. The consequence has shown how vain that expectation was, so that some who endeavoured to bear up against the stream are now satisfied to be carried by it, and the idle distinctions which divided us last campaign are quite laid aside. 'Tis much for my advantage that I am come here upon the foot of a volunteer, for by that I can take a freedom which I cannot do by being in a fixed post. Mr. Sutton would have prevailed with the rest of the Brigadiers to have insisted on my doing duty, it would have been a great point gained for him, but when they were assured that I had the Queen's leave not to serve till I was satisfied in my pretensions, they were all silent.

I don't doubt your Lordship has heard of our surprising a little fort at Arleux, and breaking down the dam that kept the water from Douay, where it began to be mightily wanted. Lest the French should repair that dam, it was thought fit that we should keep that fort and fortify it anew. To prevent our being hindered in that work, ten battalions of foot and six squadrons of horse and dragoons were ordered to camp between that and Douay. Yesterday morning the Duke of Bourbon, with thirty squadrons of horse and dragoons, marched to attack that body, and came to Gulesein, within a mile of the place where we had a post of foot and some horse, to advertise the camp in case anybody marched that way, but they were all retired for security into the chateau, and by that means the Duke of Bourbon detailed 800 dragoons to attack the camp, commanded by Lieutenant-General Rodmar, which they did by break of day, when they were all in their beds. They fell upon the first four squadrons pell-mell, with sword in hand, and had not Mr. Selwyn's regiment, which was camped next the horse, taken arms immediately and marched towards them, I believe they had carried away all those four squadrons, but in the fire and confusion several horses broke loose from their pickets, and some troopers got away with their horses, so that 'tis believed there were not above 200 missing; the loss in other respects, 'tis believed, was pretty equal, there being as many French among the slain as of our troops. The Duke of Bourbon sent a trumpeter to summon the post at Arleux to surrender, and if he did not he told him Maréchal Villars and the whole army which was marching that way would put him to the sword, but the commandant would not take his word. I fear we shall not keep that post long after we march from hence, but the water we have from it at present will contribute very much to the security of Douay. Unless some such little actions as these happen, I am of opinion we shall make a very peaceable campaign.

The King of Prussia has sent the Prince of Anhalt a letter not to open his orders, which were to be opened the 12th, and 'tis thought those orders were to march away with his troops, unless his Prussian Majesty should receive satisfaction from the States. The Prince of Anhalt has been very ill of a fever, and is not yet able to come abroad.

J. D[RUMMOND] to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July [3-]14, N.S. Amsterdam—We continue here of the same opinion I had the honour to mention to your Lordship in my last, the labyrinth seems daily more difficult, and makes us the more earnest to be out of it who have no profit, but many severe blows, to our trade. If I knew what is wished for or expected in favour of Britain which was not mentioned in the preliminaries perhaps I could sound the pulses of some men, without exposing the secret in the least, but I leave all this to your wiser judgment.

The Muscovite Ambassador, Prince Korakin, is expected at Paris from your Court, which, I doubt not, you have been timely informed of, and that the election of an Emperor may be delayed as long as can be by King Augustus. I wish it may succeed right at last. The States have, in a manner, laid their commands on the Prince of Nassau to come to the Hague and compound matters in a friendly manner with the King of Prussia, who is more hearty for the common interest now he is in good hands here, than when he is at his own Court.

Prince Eugene entreats me to write to you for the recruiting money due to the Imperialists, and orders me to make his compliments to your Lordship. I promised to write as his Highness was pleased to order me, but entreated he would rather write himself, and he would be better heard.

The secret project for a settlement on the continent of the Spanish West Indies meets with encouragement from this town, who demand a third part of the whole for them, another third for the society of Surinam, which one may say is also under the government of this town, and one third will be taken by subscription. They demand only six men of war, twelve or fifteen hundred land men, and six hundred negroes, ready at Surinam, to be taken aboard there. The place they design is rich in mines, a great distance from any great force the Spaniards have or can bring there of a sudden. They require three hundred handicraftsmen, such as bricklayers, carpenters, and smiths, and a sufficient artillery for making and furnishing a fort on their arrival. The place they design is said to be in the kingdom of Mexico, but as all is yet kept extremely secret, you may be sure that part will be discovered last. You will think me very impudent to recommend secrecy to you as in my last; I don't mean any farther than from those who could, knowing any thing, make me suspected that I should not be let into any farther knowledge.

Your Lordship's good friend, Monsieur Buys, is gone this morning to the meeting of the States of Holland at the Hague, whose lottery being full they propose to draw it next month, and then to write out another of the same nature and sum, though the other provinces seem to reflect very much upon this method of raising money, because this costs the richest and best province above six per cent. per annum, and the poorer provinces who have little credit get in no money on their negotiations. This province will now make its last effort to shew as good a mean as they can, and to have a sum of ready money to throw in where other means cannot prevail, and therefore I hope and believe no one German Prince can do us much harm when we have the remedy ready in our hand which always prevails on their temper.

Your Lordship's generosity is much commended at camp for carrying on the building at Blenheim with so much diligence, this is heaping coals of fire on their heads, and yet by the enclosed abstract disingenuity, it seems, cannot be laid aside.

The representation of the House of Commons I am getting trans-

lated here into French and Dutch, there being nothing more useful. I got the heads of it in a pretty particular abstract printed in the Dutch Gazette, and it has very much opened people's eyes. If you desire your South Sea Act should also be published as soon as I get it over, it shall be done.

This State looks upon the new possession given to the Duke of Bavaria to be of ill consequence, and may oblige us to treat with him or gain him some equivalent at a treaty from the Emperor.

You will, no doubt, hear from Van Huls that my Lady Albemarle is delivered of a daughter, having had only one son, who was born about the time of the King's death. I have had some suspicion, I know not how well it may be founded, that the Grand Pensionary may make the same use of his Lordship which the King did of Lord Portland before the treaty of Ryswick. Lord Portland and Marshal de Boufflers made all the secrets of that affair before the plenipotentiaries ever saw one the other. I have had two letters lately from his Excellency, desiring me earnestly to come to Tournay to him. If I can get so much time before I go over in August to pay my respects to your Lordship, I will endeavour to go to Tournay, or meet him at Ghent, and so over by Ostend.

The Rev. NATHANIEL TAUBMAN to the LORD TREASURER.

1711, July 3. York Buildings—Forwards letter from the Chaplain at Leghorn to his brother [Dr. White Kennet, *see p.* 1 *ante*], and an address from the Bishop of London, urged by the merchants here.

The privilege of the chaplaincy was acquired five years past, when we had no footing in the Mediterranean, against the same passionate resentments of the Grand Duke that his envoy expresses now; but Sardinia, Majorca, and Minorca are at present subservient to us, Mediterranean Princes controlled by us and our fleets triumphant, yet the support of the privilege costs more trouble than the establishment of it at first did.

COL. HORACE WALPOLE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1711,] July 3—The Norwich people are very desirous that Col. Seamons *(sic)* should be knighted, and when I told them that it would be objected that he was a brewer, 'twas answered that worse than he, that had not one-fourth of his estate, had been, that the two Turners had not half his estate together when knighted, nor Sir Samuel Taylor when knighted, all three of Lynn and they have none at Norwich. It would be a great strengthening to our party and lessen theirs; he has actually 2,000*l.* per annum, besides his stock in trade which is considerable. His father and wife's father have been high sheriffs of the county, and he himself within two years of the latter; he is a justice of the peace and a hearty honest man.

Mr. Justice JAMES MACARTNEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 5. Dublin—Though I am a stranger to your person, none can be a stranger to your Lordship's distinguishing character and justice, to the last of which I humbly appeal to prevent some evil designs carrying on against me. I was bred a lawyer, and in the late King's time had the honour to be made one of the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench here in Ireland. I am not conscious to myself to have done any-

thing to deserve her Majesty's displeasure, though I am informed endeavours are made to give you ill impressions of me, to get me removed from the Bench, to make way for some friend of their own. Whatever may be insinuated to the contrary, I assure your Lordship I never concerned myself with parties or politics, but endeavoured to qualify myself for her Majesty's and my country's service, and I doubt not but upon a strict inquiry, your Lordship will find I have faithfully discharged my public trust, with a due regard both to the Crown and to the subject, and therefore I hope, from your Lordship's great justice, that you will not be prevailed with to have me laid aside, without first inquiring into my behaviour and character, or giving me an opportunity of being heard to what is objected against me.

EDWARD SOUTHWELL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 5. Dublin—I have not troubled your Lordship since I had the honour to take leave of you, our whole time hitherto having been taken up with travelling. His Grace was eleven days wind-bound at Parkgate, and four days at sea, but he arrived the 3rd in the evening; and I may with great truth assure your Lordship he met a greater reception than he himself ever formerly had, or anybody else; which I hope is a good forerunner that matters will answer here in Parliament to her Majesty's satisfaction.

Mr. Brodrick, the late Lord Chief Justice, went hence three days before his Grace's landing, and gave out it was to see his dying father; others say that he went hence, as giving up the hopes of making a vigorous opposition; or else to see if he could find anybody to give him any manner of encouragement, and 'tis very certain that if he fails in that expectation, his friends here will have very little heart.

His Grace's landing so late will, I believe, make it necessary to have an adjournment of four or five days to bring all the members up and to prepare all the accounts for the public; and as his Grace, in his speech, is, by her Majesty's direction, to take notice of her grace and favour in remitting the First Fruits and in the donative to the College, his Grace is very desirous to be possessed of those letters, which I therefore take the liberty to desire from you that they may be dispatched over.

At the same time, I presume to mention another thing, which has put his Grace under some concern, which is the letter coming over for Sir Henry Bunbury alone, and Mr. Stephen Ludlow's name not being added, who is a person his Grace had frequently mentioned to your Lordship, and upon the assurances he received had acquainted him therewith, as indeed the whole town had complimented him upon it.

Your Lordship allowed me the liberty of writing freely to you upon all occasions, and 'tis in pursuance hereof I mention this matter, the more particularly as his Grace is not only concerned for a very deserving man, who has done always very considerable service in the House; but his Grace feels this matter nearly himself.

I shall trouble you constantly with an account of our affairs here, and with the abstract and view of our Parliamentry accounts, as we shall lay them before the House; and you will be assured that his Grace is entirely bent with all diligence to pursue her Majesty's service, and the quiet and satisfaction of all her subjects.

The DUKE OF ORMONDE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 5. Dublin—I landed here on Tuesday evening, after a tedious voyage for so short a passage. I was a little surprised on my

arrival to find Sir Henry Bunbury's letter, to make him one of the commissioners of the revenue, and Mr. Ludlow's forgotten, which I am sure must be a neglect of some of the clerks of the Treasury. I must desire the favour of your Lordship to give orders that this letter for Mr. Ludlow may be sent to me as soon as possible, for the gentleman is a little mortified to see Sir Henry Bunbury's letter come without his.

I have seen a great many gentlemen of the House of Commons, and they give me reason to believe that everything will go as the Queen desires.

Dr. Todd, Canon of Carlisle.

[1711, July 5, received.] Dr. Todd's case, in relation to the Cathedral Church of Carlisle.

Dr. Todd has been canon of the Cathedral Church of Carlisle twenty-seven years. During that time he has composed an historical account of the Ancient State of that Church and Diocese in Latin; ready prepared for the press.

The Doctor has upon all occasions asserted her Majesty's rights; and promoted (as much as in him lay) the good ends of the happy union of the two kingdoms. He published a sermon upon that subject, and sent up an address upon that occasion; and lately (at the request of several gentlemen of the country) prepared an address upon the late happy turn of affairs, though it was stifled by some of the magistrates.

By his asserting her Majesty's title and prerogative as local visitor of the church, the Doctor met with great trouble three years ago, and was at great expense in defending the Queen's title, both in the Court of Common Pleas and Parliament.

Dr. Todd has, for many years, managed most of the concerns of the Church, in the absence of the Deans; and if, upon the promotion of the present Dean, her Majesty please to bestow the Deanery upon him, he would endeavour to order and regulate all the concerns of the church with the greatest diligence and application. And seeing the absence of the Deans has been the unhappiness of the Church, and the occasion of some irregularity and disorder in it, the Doctor would so contract his affairs as to be resident upon the place for several months in the year.

Whereas 'tis reported that one Mr. Gibbon, who has a living of 300*l.* per annum within the diocese, moves by his friends to succeed to the Deanery; and that living was given him by the University of Cambridge (the patron, Mr. Howard, being a recusant convict), by virtue of the Act of Parliament, 3 Jac. I., confirmed 1 W. and M., which obliges the person so presented to be constantly resident upon the living, except only sixty days in a year; should he succeed, his necessary and almost continual absence from the church would be very prejudicial to its affairs.

Dr. Todd lives at present in good agreement with the Bishop of the Diocese; and will always do so, so long as nothing is attempted by the Bishop (which he hopes will never be again), to the prejudice of the Church or diminution of her Majesty's interest and prerogative.

The Doctor humbly leaves the whole matter to her Majesty's most gracious consideration, and as he was born a confessor for Monarchy and Episcopacy in the time of her Royal uncle, King Charles II., who as he passed through Cumberland, Aug. 7, 1651, was pleased to promise his father, who was then ejected and deprived of his living, all favour and encouragement whensoever he should enjoy the rights of his Crown, so he will ever continue to assert and defend her Majesty's happy government both in Church and State.

J. D[RUMMOND] to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July [6-]17, N.S. Amsterdam—The great man at the army is newly incensed against the Duke of Argyll, who has exposed his reputation as much as has been possible for him where ever he has been of late, and especially since his arrival at Barcelona. I think after what passed in the army and in England the Duke of Marlborough needed not expect great commendations from my countryman.

You will, no doubt, have very particular accounts from the Hague of the great misfortune befallen our brave young Prince of Nassau Friesland, whose untimely death is much lamented by all who were of the late King's interest, and made very slight of by all the old De Witt and Arminian faction, thinking themselves now eternally rid of a Statholder, though providence may direct it otherwise at last, for his Princess is near five months gone with child, which proves to be a great comfort at present to the States ministers, in their management of the King of Prussia, who immediately thought all was his own; but it will prove a long delay to all the measures that were concerted and to be concerted towards a reconciliation betwixt his Majesty and that Prince. For now the States say it is not in their power to act, the Princess may bring forth a son in due time, who must be of age ere they can take upon them to come to a decision. His Majesty has not yet declared himself on this subject. We wish he may not follow King Augustus' footsteps, who now threatens hard even to make our army for the preservation of the neutrality to fight for him, or that he will call off his troops from our army in Flanders. But here I am taking up your Lordship's time with accounts which you will have from better hands. I shall now only tell your Lordship that the untimely death of this Prince has broke or made ineffectual one of the greatest cabals perhaps that ever was in the States dominions, though, at the same time, one of the greatest secrets. The Nobes *(sic*, nobles ?) and a great minister wanted but a favourable opportunity of establishing this young gentleman at the top of his ambition, as my information tells me, and our success hitherto hindered the progress; such turns, it seems, are only to be given in time of straits and necessity, and misfortune.

I hope no by-view will now hinder every branch of the government of this State to lay hold of the first opportunity of making an end of this war, and thinking heartily on a reasonable peace.

My Lord Orrery has ordered me to wait on him next Tuesday at the Hague, the Grand Pensionary having entreated his Lordship to come there immediately, to concert matters of the greatest importance. I received this evening a very short but obliging letter from the Grand Pensionary, asking when I am to go over, and he desires I may be at the Hague some days before I go, so that this day seven night I may have subject to trouble your Lordship with another letter. All I fear is some confusion amongst the provinces, but I hope they will be so wise as to reserve their resentments till a peace be concluded.

It will be some time next month ere I can hope to have the honour of paying my respects to your Lordship, and I shall be very glad to be honoured with your commands and instructions ere I leave this place, if you esteem me capable of rendering you any service. My wife also humbly begs my Lady Oxford's commands, and my Lady Dupplin's and the young ladies', if there be anything in this country for their service.

It is one Captain Kennedy who goes over to your Lordship, a creature of Lord Stair's, from the Duke of Marlborough, who is a better scholar than a soldier, if what he has to propose takes effect then. Lord Stair

will follow, as the abstract of the French letter I had the honour to send your Lordship last post mentions.

The French Court is working to settle the Tuscan succession on the Duke of Berri, and it is said the Pope favours it. We have got a small rub near Douay by negligence, though Baron Hompesch and Bothmar, who commanded there, are both of unspotted reputation, and blame the weakness of their detachment.

LORD CARTERET to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 9—I have heard from Lord Weymouth since I saw you. He is still positive in refusing an earldom; it was my opinion he would be so, which made me not very forward to send a messenger, as Lord Jersey told me you would have me do.

HENRY WATKINS to [J. DRUMMOND?].

1711, July [9-]20, N.S. Camp at Gonai—The whim of recalling troops goes round; the Elector Palatine is at it now. He says his four battalions that are gone to make part of the neutrality corps must come back if we do not make them an extravagant allowance of bread and forage. The King of Prussia owes us a great deal of reparation for beginning this prank. I hope he will be quiet for some time, now that there is so brave a Prince sacrificed to his humour. We of the army think the King might as well have been spared, though I suppose some of you peaceable politicians may be of opinion there is a good riddance of the poor Prince.

We are got into new ground, in which we shall not grow much older, for to-morrow we shall continue our march towards Aire.

The enemy have made another detachment from their army of eleven battalions and eight squadrons, which marched yesterday towards Cambray; but whether they are designed for Germany or for some concerted plot in Brabant, 'tis not certain. We have ordered Westerloo's regiment to Brussels, and Hamilton's is gone to Ghent. The times are sadly changed, instead of taking the enemy's towns, we have enough to do to look after our own.

VISCOUNT DUPPLIN to his father-in-law [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 10. Eywood—We have had several of the folks of Radnor here already. The election is to be on Monday next after which no doubt you'll hear of my brother's success from himself. I'm sorry the Queen has lost a Secretary of State, it will be very difficult to make up that loss. I send you a letter I received from Mr. Keith, before I came out of town. I don't know his business, only that his circumstances are very low, you know his pretensions and merit better than I can inform you, so I shall say no more about him.

I send you likewise a memorial of the Earl of Linlithgow's, which his Lordship gave me to read to you, when I left Scotland in October last. I kept it by me till now, because nothing was like to be done in his affair till the rest of the affairs of Scotland were under your consideration. No doubt my Lord Mar and Lord Kinnoull will then put you in mind how reasonable his desire is, and how deserving a young gentleman he is.

There is one thing I designed to have told you before I left London, but not getting an opportunity, and being afraid delaying of it long might be inconvenient, I give you the trouble now. That is, that by my Lord Kinnoull's discourse all this winter I found that he expected you would advise with him in Scotch affairs, and that he was to be employed in some of the great offices there; that the Register's place in Scotland was the only place he could think himself fit for, and he did not doubt but you would give it to him if he would accept of it; that he would not at all meddle with Scotch affairs by halves, if a thorough measure for the interest of the Crown (which by his notion is the only way Scotland can reap advantage by the Union) were not gone into, and pursued without respect to private recommendations, without fear of disobliging or desire of obliging any body or any party.

These things I have observed run mightily in his head, and what I really believe are his sincere thoughts. But at some certain times I have found him in quite another humour, that he desired nothing in the world so much as to go home and plant his trees and live easily in the country. What had he to do to be chosen one of the sixteen to come to London and make himself a show with his gout? and a world of such splenetic fancies, which I took not at all to be what he really desired, but only to proceed from the delay he found was like to be in doing any thing in Scotch business. Upon the whole, my observation always was that when Scotch matters are settled, if he be not made Register in the room of the Earl of Glasgow, and have not a hand in the direction of the affairs of that country under you, as thinking that he understands them, and that he is one that you cannot have any suspicion of his having a view to any different interest from yours, that he'll be very dissatisfied, and will never make good what he so often declares, that no man desires more to live a private life at home at his ploughs than he does. He'll be worse than he was winter was a twelve month, when I assure you there was no bearing of him, not by his children or servants, even although he was in this pleasant country way of living he talks of.

My Lord Mar knows a good deal of this, and no doubt you'll observe it yourself, if you talk any time with my Lord Kinnoull about the affairs of Scotland.

Prior's Negotiations in France.

A long paper in the handwriting of Matthew Prior except the concluding part headed "Audience," endorsed "Journal of my * [*Prior, *noted below*.] Journey to Paris, to be looked over and digested."

1711, July 12-23, N.S.—M. Torci had upon his table three letters which he had received from Petkum, these he read to me, two of them were in cipher, the third a very long one in plain characters, received that very night; the substance of them was to desire that the King of France would be pleased to renew the negotiation with Holland, that he was sure the States were in great want of a peace, and were ready to send half way to Paris if they could hope France would treat with them, that he was sure his Christian Majesty might have better terms from them than from England. M. Torci likewise showed me the answer he had given to the second of these letters, which was really very great, not to say a little fierce; expressing his master's resentment of the usage he had received from Holland, and his resolution of not entering again into any particular manner of treating with the States. Petkum's third letter which as I said was received but that afternoon was more pressing

than either of the two former, and its being writ at length without cipher showed plain enough that the writer did not fear that it should be opened; from whence it is evident that it was writ by the knowledge and order of the government in Holland. It began with his great sorrow that there was still so unhappy an aversion on this side to the treating with Holland; that he hoped it diminished, and would be overcome; that the Dutch desired more than ever to renew the conferences, and were ready to give the French whatever terms of peace they could ask. He begged M. Torci to believe that he acted for his service, and was sure it was for the interest of France to close with the Dutch proposal, that this was the time in which they might have what peace they pleased, and repeated again that the States were ready to come half way to Paris in case he might have the happiness to tell them that France would treat with them; that we, the English, would deceive them; that the Whigs indeed would act in concert with the Dutch, but that the Tories were privately concerting measures with the Imperialists, and were resolved to continue the war. At this passage I could not forbear laughing, and said that if M. Petkum was no better apprized of the inclinations of the States towards a peace than he was of desires of the English towards the prolonging the war, I thought his advice would not weigh much with M. Torci. I said this would make a good pasquinade in England, as we had already two or three in the name of M. Petkum. "I show you these letters," said M. Torci, "that you may see the plainness and openness with which his Majesty will treat with England, if the propositions you bring leave any possibility for it;" I said I was very sensible of the manner and kindness with which he treated me, and was sure I might thank him in her Majesty's name upon that account. After this M. Torci began, by asking me seriously if I had not another memoir to give him, for that he would be desirous to see something that could possibly be complied with. I answered that I hoped he, with a serious air, rallied me, and I laughing was serious when I said I had no other memoir, nor the power to recede one iota from any point in this. "*La paix ne se fera pas donc, Monsieur; tenez, dit il, lisez vous même vos demandes préliminaires.*" I did so, and returning him the paper, I said I had obeyed his orders, and hoped he was going to fill the other side of the paper with such answers as I could carry back. "*Monsieur Prior, dit il, vous avez été dans le commerce, reflechessez un peu sur ce memoire;*" so beginning at "*Pour la* Great Britain *plus particulièrement,*" he said that we asked no less than to be master of the Mediterranean and Spain, to possess ourselves of all the Indies, and to take away from France all that appertains to that crown in America. I answered that as I had all the reason in the world to think that France designed to act as his (Torci's) own letters had expressed *sincèrement et de bonne foi*, it was in the same intention that the four persons most concerned in the Ministry whom I named, my Lord Treasurer, the Duke of Shrewsbury, the Secretary, and the Earl of , whom I said I hoped was by this time likewise in the Ministry, all of them and her Majesty herself desirous of a peace had agreed upon these propositions, founded upon his letter, which was the ground of our present negotiation; that our trade in the Mediterranean was not sufficiently assured without Gibraltar and Port Mahon, which, to make use of his own argument, we ought to have, being already possessed of them, as much as K[ing] P[hilip] should have Spain; and upon the same foot that the like might be said as to what we possess or have taken in North America from France, except we should hereafter come to some equivalent; and that, as to our being possessed of some places in the Spanish West Indies, France might make such exception as to those

places that Spain would have little reason to fear from our settlements, which were to secure us from pirates and robbers, particularly in the South sea, who I said, for the honour of my own nation, were most Englishmen, and some French, particularly Dunkirkers, which by the way was a new argument for our insisting upon the demolition of that nest of pirates, whom France, as it was always a generous nation, hated as much as we, and from whom they sometimes suffered as much as we in those remote parts of the world; and that the Spaniards themselves would thank us for protecting them from the violence of these buccaneers, which would be an advantage to them, though to be sure we meant it for the security of our own factories. "You will never make Spain believe," said he, "that it is for their advantage to take away their country;" that we should soon fortify any place that should be given us even those which we desired to have assigned to us for our Assiento trade, in case that demand could be complied with, that it was a constant rule of Spain, not to let in any other nation amongst them in America; so that he was assured, and told me plainly that this article was impossible to be granted. Here my heart ached extremely and I was ready to sink, but recollecting myself, I thought it time to say that if this was to continue a maxim, I was very sorry that my coming hither was of no effect, and that I looked upon myself as very unhappy, while I told him with the same plainness, *ouverture de cœur*, that he used to me, that it was impossible the peace should be made upon any other condition.

"*Voici encore une autre impossibilité*," says he, and reading the next article "*la terre neuve*," &c., he observed that we intended to be masters of all that belonged to France, and would keep it, and desired them to give us whatever they were masters of; he asked the equity and reason of this. "Now," says he "say whatever you please for Newfoundland, we can say the same and more; it is the nursery of our seamen, our fishers are obliged, as yours are, to take young men to perform that voyage, who at their return are enregistered at St. Malo, Brest, and other ports on the west side of France, and for the fish we have more need of it than you, for we are indispensably obliged to consume it ourselves, while you for the greatest part propose to yourselves only the profit of selling it to others." As I saw him very intent upon this, and knew that some temperament might be found in the negotiation upon this head from our being already possessed of Port Royal, and consequently of Acadie, and possibly of some part of Canada, and knowing likewise that it is not of so great consequence to us, provided we remain possessed of their part of Newfoundland, I did not say any more to this article than that all Hudson's Bay was originally ours, that the name spoke it, that Hudson, in the year 1610, sailed through and possessed himself of that bay, that the names of all the banks and towns even in the French maps have always been and are now English, and as to Newfoundland, the words *terre neuve* is but the interpretation of the English name, and even before that name was given to the place it was found by Sebastian Cabot, possessed by the English in the time of our Henry the Eighth, and known by the name of Avelon.

As we went thus through the articles, M. Torci still took some little notes upon each, and returning again to the barrier for Holland, he said, "At least I have endeavoured to please you in this," and took up the paper and read it. I told him I thought it very ample and well, and such as I believed we were very well satisfied with, as I hoped the Dutch would be in the execution of it. "I wish," said he, "I could satisfy you as well upon all your demands." I said I did not doubt

but that he would, and in that hope would attend his further orders. "*Agitez à cette heure, dit il, avec moi en ami, et dites ce qui vous contentera.*" I told him I had really done so, and showed him again the letter with which the Queen had honoured me, assuring him I had no further power, but to report the answer which his most Christian Majesty should be pleased to make, which, to be sure, I had all the reason in the world to wish would be favourable, and such as I might carry back with satisfaction, the peace of my country, the desire of my Queen, and possibly my own fortune by it. He said he could answer me as I answered him, that he was only the "*rapporteur de ces propositions*," that he had laid them before his Majesty, who, he could already say, could not agree to them, and was commanded to lay them before him again in a more particular manner, which he would do the next day. I took this occasion to tell him that at the same time I had a particular favour to beg of him, which was that he would let his Majesty know that, as far as a private person might with manners express himself to so great a Prince, I had an entire pleasure in finding his Majesty in so good health. I always retained the greatest veneration for his person, and remembrance of his favours whilst I was in France, and I hoped his Majesty would contribute whatever he could towards the perfecting that peace which would make him a friend to my Queen and to my country.

July 14-25, nine at night. Monsieur Torci desired to speak with me in his lodgings. I was there about a quarter of an hour before he came. He asked my excuse for having made me stay so long, for that the King had kept him; and after a little discourse of the palace, gardens, &c., he began in a serious manner, and a discourse which I thought particular and premeditated. That as he had promised he would do, he had laid the proposals before his Majesty, and that his Majesty's sentiments of them were that they were such as could not possibly be complied with, though the King had the greatest mind to make a peace, for, said he, you ask no less than to be masters of Europe and America; Gibraltar and Port Mahon give you the domination of Spain and of France in the Mediterranean. Your maritime force is such as renders all the commerce of the two crowns, even the possession of Spain, precarious, but your demands in the Indies are such as the crown of Spain, by all the laws, maxims, and interests of that kingdom, can never consent to, and which the Dutch themselves were as averse to as France or Spain could be; and for the rest, said he, you ask in America all that which [with] our sweat and our blood we have been endeavouring for a hundred years past to acquire. Notwithstanding all this, said he, the King will not send you back with an absolute refusal, but has ordered his council, and to that council has added those persons who are most versed in the mercantile affairs to consider of and report their opinion upon the proposals which you bring: These persons will as soon as it is possible come hither, the council will be ready to confer with them, and I shall be able in six or eight days to give you his Majesty's answer. In the meantime since it is a thing of so great consequence, I hope your stay will not be thought long, nor the delay I ask, affected, for the King desires a peace, but to obtain it he cannot give up France and Spain.

I said that I thought it very reasonable that the proposals should be justly weighed and examined; that we should be better satisfied with an answer to them taken up [with] mature deliberation than if it had been given immediately and in haste, that I was very far from being weary of staying here, since her Majesty's order had not confined me in point of time, and I met with all the civility here which I could

expect. As for that, said he, you know very well it is the circumstance of the time in which you come and the manner of your coming that hinders us from showing you how welcome you are. I said first that I presumed he always kept to what he had been pleased to declare to me at first, that his Majesty had full and complete power to treat for Spain, so that I was not to attend any other answer than such as should be made by France, and immediately from his Majesty's council here. He answered they were those who understood the marine and mercantile affairs, they were now at Paris, and he had already writ for them to come hither, that they would here confer with Mr. Desmaretz, and from their report his Majesty would form in relation to Spain an answer to the proposals, or rather return such a plan as a just and reasonable peace might be founded on.

I said that, with all due deference to what he had said *en ministre et pour la France*, I could not but hope that his Majesty and his council were too *eclaircis* to think that what we demanded from them took anything in reality from France or Spain; that as to the assurance of our commerce in the Mediterranean we asked no more than what was already assigned us by Monsieur de T[orci's] letter, for that gave us Gibraltar, and we were now actually possessed of Port Mahon, that as his letter, by "*sureté réelle pour nôtre commerce*," understood the actual possession of some places, so the "*sureté réelle pour nôtre commerce aux Indes*" must have the same interpretation, and that we must, consequently, have the actual possession of some places in those parts; and, said he, do not we know what you are doing? Have you not put all the money in England upon that chance, and do you not intend to do in the West Indies as you have done in the East, to possess yourselves of the places to fortify them, and to make yourselves masters of the whole trade of the world. I said that, as I had told him before, we most certainly propose to ourselves some advantage in making the peace, in order to recompense us for the prodigious expense we had been at in continuing the war, and that though the present course of trade made us direct our view to the West Indies, yet our designs in that behalf were such as could not give the French, much less the Spanish, occasion to suspect that we should any way become masters in those parts; that four places in so great a tract of land were so few that the number itself was an answer to the objection, and that, as I had before said, the desire of our possessing these places was rather to defend ourselves in those remote parts of the world against robbers and pirates, than to annoy the Spanish, to whom, in matters of trade, we should rather be a help and assistance. Sir, I added, I see nothing in this demand that concerns France, nor that forbids France obtaining some collateral advantage of the same kind from Spain, but that is no way my affair. France may have other politics and other views. We are a trading nation, and as such must secure our traffic; her Majesty and her ministry judge it absolutely necessary that this branch of our trade be secured.

1711, Sunday, July 16-27, nine at night, in the gardens of Fontainebleau—M. Torci desired to meet me. Gautier was with us. It was dark enough to conceal who we were. He had sent me the printed news which came in the day before from Holland and Flanders, and after some common discourse, he asked me if I had read the Dutch gazettes; and, said he, your South Sea Company makes a great deal of work. The Dutch are extremely surprised at it. I said it was time we should look a little to our own interest, who ever were surprised at it, and I hoped we should have a peace, and see the good effects which

that Company would have, which, if it were advantageous to us, would not be disadvantageous to France, and to Europe in general it would cause a more equal distribution of traffic. You will never convince us of that, said he. I said I hoped that in the answer I should receive upon that Article, as upon all the rest which I had the honour to give him, I should find that France thought our proposal reasonable, and I did not question but that he gave his assistance to render those answers as favourable as he could. We are all at work for you, he said, the answers will be ready before the end of the week, but I doubt if they can possibly come up to your demands, if you do not ask to ruin Spain, "*abimer l'Espagne*," and to engross all the traffic of the world to yourselves. We are dressing such a plan as cannot but be thought reasonable and equitable, "*mais pour les places, Monsieur, vous croyez qu'il ne s'accordera jamais.*" I said I looked upon that as the only base and foundation of a negotiation upon which a peace could be had, that in a tract of land of above seven hundred leagues it was impossible that four places should annoy the Spanish, as it was impossible we could have any advantage in matter of trade without having some communication and places proper to receive and disperse our goods; and that I had already explained myself very fully upon that head; that for what the Dutch gazettes said, France was too wise to mind it. Everybody printed what had been heard in the next coffee house, and the paragraphs from England were generally supplied by the French refugees at London, so I passed off that discourse as well as I could. Our negotiants here, said he, are terribly alarmed at your Company. I answered that I neither saw any reason why they should be alarmed, since it would make the whole commerce of Europe circulate, nor did I see what we asked hindered France any way from making what bargain they could with Spain. Upon this he said, people thought Philip's being King of Spain was of great advantage to France, but he could assure "*foi d'honnête homme*" that France was no way upon a better foot with that kingdom than it was in the time of King Charles the Second; but, on the contrary, the Spaniards were most jealous of the French since a Prince of the house of Bourbon [was placed] upon the throne.

1711, July 19-30, Wednesday, nine at night, at Monsieur de Torci's lodging—We sat, and he began in the same grave and concerted manner as he had done the Friday before, that the King's Council had been revolving and considering our proposals, but that the more they laboured the more difficulties they still found; that the King was so desirous of a peace and so resolved to show that he acted seriously and honourably with us; that though he could not submit, as he expressed it, to some terrible Articles in the memorial I had given him, he was resolved to send us a plan as reasonable and as extensive as he could, and till he had our answer he would no way hearken to the offers which were every day made him from the other side, though they were certainly more easy and advantageous to him. I did not offer to put in the least word till he at last desired me to answer. I said I asked his pardon if I did not well understand what he meant by a plan; that the ministry in England looked upon that memorial which I had the honour to give him as a plan, and that my orders were to receive the answer which he should think good to make to those heads. He said that should be done, but it was impossible any accommodation could be made, since I had no power to recede from those Articles, except some body that had a full power from France of explaining the King's intentions and of agreeing with us in England upon them, or of breaking off

the negotiation in case he did not agree, should go over to England with me and the answer they should make to our memorial; and he said that the King and he himself asked my advice in this matter, for if you are for a peace we must not lose time in this matter, it will be too long till you or somebody else returns with your answer, a want of power on each side will still be alleged, the campaign will draw to an end, we shall be providing subsidies for another year, the present disposition we are in may be changed, and we shall be obliged to endeavour at a peace where we can get it cheapest, or to continue a war which, God be thanked, we can yet do.

I said we knew the state of the French nation very well, and we had a great deal of reason to be acquainted with that of our neighbour the Dutch, that I would not question but that the answer I should in a day or two receive from him would be such as a peace might be built upon, and that whoever went to England with me would have little left to explain there, that I could only answer that the person should be received with the same kindness and hospitality which I had found in France, and the only thing that would make that person truly welcome to our ministers at London would be, their seeing that my voyage hither had not been useless. He said again the person whom the King would send should be fully instructed and empowered, and that I should have an answer in a day or two. He showed me in this conference another letter written from Petkum to the President de Rouille, in which Petkum again says that this is the time for France to have what conditions they can desire from Holland towards making a peace glorious for this nation, that Count Galas had assured the Pensionary that all sort of negotiation between France and England was broken off. Petkum desires again to be believed in this point, and asks a passport for his own coming to Paris, where he does not doubt but that he may bring about a peace between France and Holland.

1711, July 21-August 1. Friday, nine at night—Monsieur de Torci gave me the answer to the memorial I brought hither, I read it over with him, and upon it I observed, that it was only an answer to the former part of my memorial, as to what related to the allies in general, but that there was not a word in answer to what concerned Great Britain in particular. He answered that all that matter must be settled and agreed in England, that as he had said before the gentleman whom the King had named to go back with me, was fully instructed and apprized of his Majesty's mind upon those heads, that he wished it could be adjusted here, but since I had no power to recede from those positive demands which the King could not agree to, there were but two things remaining; one to break off the negotiation, which he said his Majesty and he hoped we were unwilling to do, the other to try, if there were a possibility of accommodating in what we desired as to our trade; that this gentleman, whom he named Monsieur de Mesnager, would be at Fontainebleau on Monday, to receive those orders which his Majesty had resolved on. I read the answer again to him, and "have you not heard," said Monsieur de Torci, "how the Duke of Marlborough asked *Le Terre Neuve au nom de Dieu, faites la grace à la reine ma maitresse de lui rendre la terre neuve, il me semble que vous la demandiez d'une toute autre manière.*" I said that this way of speaking was according to the Duke's way, easy and familiar, that it was true I did not ask it *au nom de Dieu pour la reine ma maitresse, mais au nom de la reine ma maitresse pour la grande Bretagne;* that the Duke was a great General and unacquainted with the particular ways of treaty, pro-

vided the thing had its desired effect, the manner was some times neglected; that there was some time a small omission in some former treaties, particularly in that we call the Barrier treaty, where care was taken for the Dutch in matter of commerce upon the tariff 1664, while it was only specified for England "*on tachera de faire un traité de commerce pour l'Angleterre,*" and this I hope will be redressed as it is mentioned in the memoir I had the honour to bring him; that in what I asked I should always endeavour to preserve the dignity of the crown of Great Britain and preserve the respect due to the minister of France with whom I then spoke.

Audience.

1711, July 24-August 3, N.S.—Monsieur Torci having the day before delivered to me the answer to the memoir, and M. Mesnager being now appointed, and empowered to go with me into England, M. Pecquet came to me in the morning and told me, the King would see me at six in the evening in his closet. Accordingly at that time M. Pecquet went privately with me through the lodgings, and Monsieur Torci came out from the King's cabinet, and introduced me to his Majesty. The King was walking, he stood still when I came in, and as I made my obeisance to him he nodded a little, bowed to me at my third bow, and sitting or leaning his back rather upon a table behind him, as I came up to him, he began, "*A ça, Monsieur, Je suis bien aise de vous voir, vous parlez Français je sçay.*"

I: "*Sire, pour pouvoir exprimer la joie que je sens de revoir votre Majesté dans une santé si parfaite, je devais mieux parler Français qu'aucun de vos sujets.*"

He: *Eh bien, Monsieur, c'est bien honnête, vous savez la reponse que j'ai donné à votre memoire, et vous savez la volonté où je suis de convenir et de traiter avec l'Angleterre. J'y envoye un ministre avec vous, qui s'expliquera en mon nom sur l'affaire; vous pouvez assurer ceux qui gouvernent l'Angleterre et qui vous envoyent que nous ferons tout ce que nous pouvons, moi et le Roi d'Espagne, pour les contenter. Nous voulons la Paix l'un et l'autre, J'y contribuera de ma part tout ce qui me sera possible.*"

He having named le Roi d'Espagne, I said,

"*Sire, la Commission dont S. M. la Reine de la Grande Bretagne m'a honoré, le memoire que j'ay donné a Monsieur de Torci et les discours qui je lui ai tenus là dessus sont des preuves convainquantes que l'Angleterre souhaite la Paix. J'espère, Sire, que votre ministre est muni d'un pouvoir ample et plein.*"

He: "*Il est, Monsieur.*"

I: "*Sire, il trouvera l'Angleterre prête à faire tout pour la Paix, qui puisse consister avec l'honneur de nation et la sûreté de leur commerce.*"

He: "*J'en ferai de même, sur ce fondement la Paix se fera, entre deux nations descendues du même sang, et qui ne sont ennemis que par necessité; il ne faut pas perdre du temps.*"

He recommended me again to Monseiur Torci who stood at a distance while I spoke to the King, and coming up presented M. Gaultier to his Majesty, upon which I took the liberty to say in that gentleman's behalf what really his behaviour merited.

"*Sire, voilà un de vos sujets à qui nous devons que la negotiation est prevenue jusques ici; il a pris beaucoup de peine et surmonté beaucoup de difficultés.*"

Taking my leave, I said, that I wished his Majesty long life and prosperity, that where ever my duty called me, I should always retain a great veneration for his person, and acknowledgment of the favours I had received in France.

C[HARLES] GODOLPHIN to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 11—If twenty years' strict application to the service of the revenue may put me upon an equal foot with some other pretenders to the vacancy that happened yesterday in the Exchequer, I would hope that the 'tipp' of my present employment might open a door for your Lordship to gratify several competitors upon this occasion. Your doing this for me, which I could not obtain from my brother, would be no disadvantage to your Lordship's character for generosity. As the Teller's place is but a sort of honorary pension, I should be well contented with 1,000*l.* whilst it yields more (although I quit 1,500*l.*), and quit the rest to any other you think fit to provide for out of it.

The EARL OF LEVEN to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 12. Edinburgh—Since my return from England there have been several reports of the Pretender's going from St. Germain, which was the subject of much discourse here. This made me send several times to the Highlands and other places for intelligence, and for anything that I can learn, the Pretender's friends have little hopes of serving him this summer; and I have reason to believe that I shall have timely advertisement of everything that passes amongst them. And now that I am on this subject I beg leave to acquaint your Lordship of a particular that has made a great deal of noise in this place. The Duchess of Gordon has lately made a present to the faculty of Advocates of a medal struck, it seems, by the Pretender at the time of the intended invasion—which medal being received by that Society, they returned her Grace their thanks for her fine present by two or three of their own number, and the medal is laid up amongst other rarities in their library.

I am endeavouring to find some way how to manage the leaders of the wild people called Cameronians, and if I succeed I will do myself the honour to give your Lordship an account thereof. The Assembly of this Church did last year recommend to me to cause the soldiers submit to their censure when guilty of gross immorality; this, I find of late, goes not well down with some of the English officers, thinking it too great a hardship upon their soldiers. This has been the constant practice, but lest there should be any misrepresentation made thereof, I thought myself obliged to mention it to your Lordship. I must beg your patience for one word more; there has been lately a mutiny of some of the garrison of Inverlochy, which I impute more to the want of officers than to the want of money. The Lieutenant-Colonel, Major and several Captains have been allowed to dispose of their commissions, but none of those that have bought have hitherto repaired to their posts, to the great prejudice of her Majesty's service. I would have written of this to the Secretary at War but that that would have been too much like a complaint, whereas all that I aim at is that they be ordered to repair to their posts, which I hope your Lordship will mention to the Secretary if you think it fit.

Postscript.—The mutiny above mentioned had no consequences, being immediately stopped.

Fr[ances wife of Henry] St. John to the Lord High Treasurer.

[1711,] July 12. Bucklebury—Your great goodness to me shown in the Collector's place has encouraged me to beg once more in the behalf of a very honest but a poor man for whom I have a particular concern, a tide waiter's place; or anything of thirty or forty pound a year is all I would beg. I am very sensible your Lordship is tormented with many pettioners *(sic)* of this kind, and am sorry that I am forced to increase the number, but it is a deed of charity, and I hope your Lordship will consider it.

Postscript.—I beg the Secretary may know nothing of this letter.

[The Earl of Staire] to the Earl of Mar.

1711, July [12-]23, N.S. Camp at Cotte—I am touched to the quick for losing our very good friend the Duke of Queensbury, who was the best natured friendly man I ever knew. He had some very great qualities and many very good ones; his defects hurt only himself. He is now already as he had never been, unmoved with what the world thinks of him, untouched by the pleasures or pains he has felt here; we must all soon be as he is. Is there anything then to be put in the last balance with the satisfaction a man perceives in his own mind from being conscious to himself he does what is right? 'Tis that only can give us true unmixed pleasure in this world, and I am very apt to believe a man who neglects to give himself that pleasure here has but little reason to expect to be happy hereafter. If we have not been just to our friends how shall we hold up our heads before them, when our actions and the secret springs of them come to be known. If we have not been just to our country, how many thousands shall we have to reproach us. You see I enter into your thought of our knowing one another hereafter, I enter into it with a great deal of pleasure. I cannot think but it will make a mighty addition to our happiness to share with those we have loved here. My dear Lord, I love you for your good nature, your affection and tenderness to our poor friend who is gone; without such affections men are worse than beasts, for beasts have them, they love the people who do them good, and sometimes will die for grief for losing of them.

I ask pardon for these useless reflections and the length of them. What remains now for his friends to do is to give their best assistance to his children, whom he loved tenderly. I'm sure neither Loudoun nor you will be wanting when either of you have it in your power to do them good.

Now as to my Lord Treasurer, I think what he said upon the subject of D. M[arlborough] is worthy of a great man, and shows him to be above that narrowness of thought which governs little people. By yours and by his letters of late to D. M[arlborough] I am persuaded his answer will be such as the Duke can desire. The Duke has no allies to comprehend, nothing to ask for himself, nor any of his friends to make him burdensome; he only desires by my Lord Treasurer's friendship to be in a condition to serve the Queen and his country. He tells me he will be with Lord Treasurer as he was with Lord G[odolphin]. I have reason to think this is his sentiment, and I am persuaded I do him but justice to believe he is above being governed by the little piques [which] may be in his family, in things which so highly concern the Queen's service and the welfare of his country.

For my coming that will depend on my Lord Treasurer's answer, Lord M. having proposed it in his letter sent to you so that that matter is entirely out of my hands. I think there should be no umbrage taken at my coming with a project relating to the public service and the carrying on of the war, which cannot be concerted in writing, there being often things which may be found necessary to be altered, and many points require to be explained. If I come my stay at London cannot be above five or six days; if my Lord M[arlborough]'s project is agreed to, the operations will immediately follow and will sufficiently show what I was sent for.

Our situation here on our right is towards Etrée Blanche upon La Quette which runs into the Lys under Aire, our left is at Marle upon the Clairence that runs into the Lys at Calonne in the Ruisseau de Robeck, in a country abounding with forage where we can stay above two months if it were necessary. In the meantime we oblige the enemy to continue at their own country, which will make their magazines difficult and infinitely expensive being to be made by land carriage; they have already begun to make them.

Monsieur de Villars has made another detachment for Germany as is pretended, but we suspect some design upon Brabant, particularly Brussels, by the intelligences they may have there, which, if it took effect, would carry the war out of this country, which they earnestly desire, but I believe such measures are taken as will sufficiently disappoint their projects on that side.

Our post at Arleux is now in such a condition that we have reason to believe will make the enemy think twice before they attack it. Monsieur de Villars has moved towards Hedosi (?) with his right about Avesnes-le-Comte, where his right will soon suffer for want of forage.

Since I writ the above we have the news that the enemy have this morning invested Arleux and attacked it with twenty-eight battalions and a considerable body of horse and dragoons. All the grenadiers of our army and forty squadrons under General Fagel are detached to relieve it, and 'tis likely we shall move with the whole to sustain our detachment if our Governor holds out as well as he promises. This may bring on an affair, for 'tis probable Monsieur de Villars will be unwilling to abandon his enterprise.

I have seen Lord Treasurer's letter to the Duke of Marlborough, writ, I suppose, from Windsor, where his Lordship approves of my bringing over the project, but I must come into England for my own private affairs. I can easily take the pretext of my indisposition, which indeed is not yet quite over. One of my great pleasures I propose to myself will [be] seeing of you and having the satisfaction to talk freely with you of a hundred thoughts of different kinds. As soon as this affair of Arleux is over, one way or other, I set out. I have said nothing of my coming to any living creature, you may say to L. what you will.

[Daniel De Foe* to the Earl of Oxford.]

1711, July 13—I can no way express my humble thankfulness to your Lordship for the relief which the return of your goodness and bounty has been to me, unless I should give you the trouble of a sad account of the anxieties and perplexities which the late interruption

* Signature torn off.

of her Majesty's appointment had brought me to, first by the late Lord T.....r, who on the change left me desolate without the arrear, and next by the disaster on your Lordship, which for a long time gave me a dark view of the nation's ruin as well as my own. These things had brought me very low, and as a sinking family is thus raised again (especially in hope) by your hand, in proportion to that deliverance is my sense of your bounty.

But as words cannot describe this, I extremely wish for an occasion to render myself useful as the best method to show myself grateful, and according to the freedom you were always pleased to allow me, I shall endeavour to show my fidelity to your interest and zeal for the public service, as the best way to serve and oblige your Lordship. In order to this and in obedience to your commands of putting my thoughts into writing, I am now applying myself to state to you some heads of observation, which I hope may be useful, on some transactions more immediately before your Lordship. I shall set down the heads here and enlarge on them in their order, as I think they may be seasonable and serviceable. Yet, I am your humble petitioner that you will be pleased sometimes, when leisure may admit, to continue me the liberty of a personal conference as usual, as well to explain myself on such matters as are needful as to receive such hints from you in public matters as you shall see meet to communicate for my direction.

The Heads I crave leave first to lay before you as more immediately for your services are:—

1. The affair of a third Secretary for public affairs, with some remarks upon the state of the civil government in Scotland.
2. The new undertaking of the trade to the South Seas, and how it may be put in terms not to give the Spaniards any umbrage and yet carry as good a face and be as effectual at home as if it were otherwise.
3. Some observations on the miscarriage of the customs in Scotland and schemes of a better management.
4. Some proposals (if you please to allow me that liberty) for improvement of the Revenue and raising money in England against the next year.

I forbear to trouble your Lordship with a multitude of heads, other things remain *in petto*, but I begin with these as well because I think them most useful as because I gather from your hints to me in your last discourse, that these things will be acceptable to you; I mean the three first.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford.—"Mr. Goldsmith."

[*Enclosure.*]

On the affair of a third Secretary, &c., I need say the less because I observe my thoughts on that head happily agree with your Lordship's judgment.

As a third office was erected upon the Union with Scotland, and filled with a native of that country, it became insensibly to seem an office peculiar to Scotland and for Scottish affairs, which has already been attended with several inconveniences and is threatened with more.

1. It became the centre of the hungry solicitations natural to that country, and mightily increased and encouraged them, by which her Majesty would in time be under a constant painful opera-

tion from a poor, craving and importunate people, who had so easy a method of obtaining requests that it made them invite one another to be always requesting; and every desire granted procured a multiplication of petitions, till in time that office would have been a true Court of Requests. A certain clerk in that office, who has resided in Scotland and is there still, has made his market of preparing, soliciting and handing forward business of this nature, has his offices in Edinburgh, and gives methods, instructions and recommendations to the office here, as if it were his business to prompt people on every trifle to seek redress and supply from the Queen. Her Majesty's goodness and bounty (though great) must be at last exhausted by continued cravings, and cases really moving will suffer by the constant clamour and solicitations of a multitude.

2. Whatever Secretary succeeds must be a Scotsman. They seem to claim it as a right. This (first) keeps up a kind of a form of separate management, which being destroyed by the Union, all vestiges of the separate state of things ought to die with it and the very remembrance if possible be taken away. Scotland no more requires a Secretary than Yorkshire or Wales, nor (the clamour of petitions excepted) can it supply business for an officer with two clerks. As to needful petitions, her Majesty's ears will always be open to her subjects' just requests, and private persons may solicit their own cases, as the English did before, whereas a Scottish Secretary is no other than a Scottish solicitor. This, I know, the Duke of Queensberry always complained of, and I have heard his Grace say it was the burthen of his office, yet he could deny nobody.

   If a new Scots Secretary succeeds he has a new throng of dependents who hang about him as if he had the whole kingdom to give, and I know the names of some who have entertained thoughts of this very office some time past, and have kept back their craving friends from pushing their requests till they should be in power to act for them, when they have promised to do mighty things for them.

   If a third Secretary should be put in (and not a Scotsman) they themselves would be the first who would cry out there was no occasion for the office.

   The addition of business from Scotland (petitions only excepted as before) seems to be no argument at all, since that business seems so little as that it can not be an employ for any one clerk in the other offices, and when it is promiscuously managed among them all will not be felt at all. The Signet may have a little office for it in either of the other offices, or in the Signet office here, or by itself, of which a proposal may be laid down by itself.

3. The very appointing a Scots Secretary has several inconveniences in it:—

   1. It keeps up a faction in Scotland, and forms a party to support the interest of that person as also another to supplant him, so that instead of his securing the quiet of the people he is *ipso facto* the means of disquieting and dividing them.

2. He constitutes himself a kind of a Governor of Scotland, since he becomes quietly and gradually (whether with or without design) the medium of all transactions between her Majesty and the people of Scotland, and makes those people more depending on him than perhaps is fit for any particular person on that side to boast of.

4. It seems to lay a foundation of a custom which in time will plead prescription and be claimed by posterity as a right, and no time can be so proper to crush it as while (the thing being young) no such claim can be made.

5. It lays the Crown under a constant and needless expense.

There might be many other reasons given for this, but these seem sufficient. There seems to be no objection but the discontenting the Scots, to which I answer:—the people will soon be easy, since they can assign no injury they receive as a reason why they should be dissatisfied.

The clamour will be only among those who expect the office, which requires no other answer than this, they cannot desire the Queen should do it only to find them an employment; a pension if her Majesty sees it reasonable, is an equivalent to that. As to the power they want by the office, the very reason why they desire it is a strong argument against her Majesty bestowing it.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford.—"Mr. Goldsmith—Secretary, &c."

J. D[RUMMOND] to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July [13-]24, N.S. Amsterdam—I returned this morning from the Hague where I left my Lord Orrery pretty much indisposed of an ague, but his Lordship endeavours to get the better of it by the Jesuits' bark in a few days, and his presence seems very necessary at the Hague, besides that the Grand Pensionary has an extreme good opinion of his integrity and loves his serious grave way of doing business. The hard memorial the King of Prussia has given in, notwithstanding his pretended grief for the loss of our brave young Prince of Nassau, the unreasonable threatenings of the King of Denmark, of King Augustus, and even of the Elector Palatine, to call away their troops very much perplex the honest old gentleman, who is now come that length to acknowledge to me that the war has lasted too long, that he was glad to have my Lord Orrery's advice and assistance at this time, for the death of the Prince of Nassau makes the old faction insult a little, and has much discouraged all the late King's friends, commonly called the Royal party, who began to be very strong, the nobility, the army, and a great majority in the province of Zealand being of that side. I have now half a promise from the Grand Pensionary that our Pensionary Buys, if it can be brought about, shall go over to you next month as Extraordinary. I have Pensionary Buys his own consent if it be demanded of him, and this town consented in it last night ere I left the Hague. Zealand have taken it *ad referendum*, which looks ill, and also the person named by the Grand Pensionary and nobility, to go from their province as ordinary residing minister in Vryberg's place, viz., Monsieur Van Burselen, brother to the Heer van Geldermalsen.

Monsieur van Huls goes to Zealand next week, whether to work for himself or any other I know not, but I hope he will be so wise both for his own and Lord Albemarle's sake not to go against the

Grand Pensionary's opinion, for my Lord never had a better friend; neither was his late master fonder of him nor readier to serve him than the Grand Pensionary, who told me he had received a return from your Lordship in the most obliging terms, and that his first letter had been a letter of compliment, but he believed the next might be about business. Mr. van Huls will be able to acquaint your Lordship what a prepossession some people here had entertained against the Queen's friends and her Majesty's true interest, by the malicious information and insinuations of Vryberg and her Majesty's own ministers, which I hope we have now got the better of.

One Fleming, a famous Scots presbyterian minister, who has a considerable meeting house behind the Royal Exchange at London, and has been condemned by several of his brethren as a very free thinker, which is pretty plain in his books which are printed, goes about preaching in the English calvinist churches and praying that God would divert her Majesty's mind from, and remove from her person, that sad society of High fliers who seek for the ruin and blood of the people of God. I went into his company at the Hague on purpose, but he then thanked God that the Queen was come off from that high set of men, and was more cool on the subject than I heard he had been in the pulpit at Campveer in Zealand. He is now going to Spa with his family where he may preach up rebellion as much as the priests will allow him. He has a pretty fair reputation amongst his own set of people, but seems to turn melancholy.

The Grand Pensionary hopes that Lord Strafford will come over with full power about an offensive and defensive alliance betwixt the Queen and the States, &c., to last in time of peace as in time of war. He desires me to write what things the ministry of England want chiefly to be informed about, and that he will give me over with me, after Lord Strafford is returned, full answers to everything, which I shall take minutes of in his presence. He was extremely obliging at this time, and entreated I might continue to propagate a right understanding and entire union as much as lies in my power betwixt the two nations.

I sounded our people about England's keeping possession of Gibraltar and Port Mahon in time of peace. They seemed to think you will not part with them, and I endeavour to make them pleased that you should not, but they will desire to have half English half Dutch garrisons in them. I asked if their barrier, viz., Tournay, Lille, Douay, &c., were to have a mixed garrison in that manner, which they did not seem willing to talk much of; but they design that barrier shall maintain fifty-three battalions free of all charge to this State.

Lord Orrery is perplexed about a great ship the Dutch Governor, Brigadier Caris, has sunk in the harbour of Ostend, which the people of Flanders exclaim against, because it is a visible ruin of that harbour if the ship be not removed, but I fear she may lie where she is, and I wish no more may be placed there by that unruly province of Zealand.

I have studied the true value that Gibraltar can be of to the English trade, if kept in her Majesty's possession, and I hope to have the honour to entertain your Lordship on that subject though all I can say is obvious to the weakest understanding who knows the nature of the Spanish trade, and the situation of that place. This latter I have from the Dutch Admirals and others who have narrowly examined it.

I give Mr. Secretary St. John this night an account of what I have from St. G[ermain] and Dunkirk, &c., which you will no doubt see, and

the enclosed, from my friend at the army, will show how villainous and reproachful some men still continue there.

May I presume to beg a word of answer to this and to know your command ere I leave this place. People begin to admire the South Sea Company, it was some time ere they could comprehend it, and few yet do, but there is money remitted this day by several to buy shares. I have contributed my small mite, having sold 1,500*l.* bank stock to put into that Company. If at any time your Lordship may think they will want a correspondent here, I crave leave to offer my service.

The Earl of Jersey to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, July 13—I hope at your return from Windsor you will order me to attend you, that I may then know your female solicitrix has succeeded in my concern, upon the foundation that you left her to work on. I have always been a well-wisher to her interest, and I am told she is my friend, that, with your Lordship's protection, I think should never fail; though my cause is just and my fate hard if it does not succeed. I wholly lay aside the merit of it, and shall entirely own the success of it where 'tis due, to your Lordship's particular friendship to me.

The Duke of Ormond to the Earl of Oxford.

1711, July 15. Dublin—Your Lordship will in the enclosed paper see what progress the House of Commons have made; and in their Address to the Queen they have congratulated her upon the restoration of Credit, which everybody is convinced your Lordship laid so much to heart, and has so happily effected. The division that was in the House upon that word *Restore* of 39 to 84 does show how those who were jealous at your success herein in England have endeavoured (though ineffectually) to communicate some of the same spirit here. I hope we shall have a more general concurrence in the supplies her Majesty expects here; which good disposition is very much increased by their being satisfied that her Majesty has been as tender to save them some heads of expense as was possible. And as now the House will be accounted with for a full establishment of troops from midsummer last, it may well be expected that the saving from that time will soon produce wherewithal to support a full establishment accordingly.

I am often put in mind of the two letters from her Majesty for granting the first fruits, and the bounty to the College, which I have now mentioned in the speech by her Majesty's order, and which some of the gentlemen who divided took the liberty to question, because it was not come, and therefore it would be a particular service to have them dispatched over, and would give a general satisfaction. *Signed.*

H. W[atkins] to [J. Drummond].

1711, July [15-]26, N.S. Lens—The French still threaten us with the feats they will do in Germany, and 'tis highly probable they may have encouragement from that worthless king Augustus, whom I hope to see once again degraded even below that scandalous title; but I should think that if the Duke of Savoy were in earnest as is pretended, he might cool the courage of the French on the Rhine by obliging them

to detach from thence in greater haste in this country; and now that the Imperialists can have no pretence for one musket to be employed in Hungary, they must exert themselves or take off the mask and tell us plainly they never will do us any good. I hope your friend Prince Eugene stays thus long with you for some good purpose.

I should be very glad the complaint you have made might take off the "Examiner," for he is grown our greatest grievance, and sours all other enjoyments. I tell my great man [Marlborough] he carries his point too far in suspecting those arrows come from the same quiver that has for some time past furnished very obliging pens. He utterly denies his giving any manner of encouragement to the "Medley," and when I spoke last to him on that subject I almost put him into a passion, and he concluded my argument with saying: "I wish the devil had the 'Medley' and the 'Examiner' together." I do very stedfastly believe he himself is innocent, but I will not answer for his nearest relations, but only wish them in the same company. There may possibly be offence given from hence, and I have too much reason to believe that if the present Ministry had their spies here they might hear as bad of themselves this year as they did the last. I am sure my Lord Duke knows nothing of it, yet it is daily practised very near him, which is so scandalously base and mean that I should not be sorry to see Mr. Meredith have some more company. I am not capable of turning informer, but as mean as I am in the world I would be a reformer if possible, and I will not desist from that resolution though it does not recommend me in all places.

ROBERT LOWTHER, Governor of Barbados, to the LORD TREASURER.

1711, July 16. Barbados—The French made a descent on the 14th of last month on Montserrat, but were forced to re-imbark with the loss of about fifty men killed and as many taken prisoners. They had continued about sixteen hours upon the island. We are apprehensive that they are making preparations at Martinique for another invasion, for none of their privateers do now infest our coasts, and because they detain two flags of truce that were sent to Martinique for exchange of prisoners, one five weeks the other thirty days ago.

LORD DOWNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 16.—I believe this brings you as early notice as possible of the unfortunate death of his Grace of Newcastle by a fall off his horse a stag hunting on Friday last. He died in great pain yesterday morning.

By this unfortunate accident Hull is now become vacant. I should think myself mighty happy if you would please to approve of me to succeed his Grace in the posts he had in Yorkshire.

[DANIEL DE FOE* to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, July 17—In pursuance of your Lordship's orders of putting my thoughts in writing on the subject of the trade to the South Seas, I have enclosed to you a short general, which I humbly offer to you. I have put a stop to what I was saying in print till I may know if my

* Signature torn off.

thoughts are of any consideration in your judgment, and because I would not by distinguishing too nicely discourage the thing in general. I shall go on to draw up my notions as succinct as possible, and then attend you, if I may have the honour, to know how far my scheme may be agreeable. I know well how much is at stake upon this affair, and how well pleased some would be (merely on your particular account) to have it miscarry. I persuade myself what I have offered here is the best way to disappoint them, as it shall leave least possibility of a miscarriage, and lay less weight on that particular than now seems to lie upon it. I shall be glad to make this so clear as that your Lordship may have the same opinion of it.

Enclosure.

The present difficulty in the affair of the South Sea trade seems to consist in the notion of what we call a Free-trade, and the dissatisfactions that some people are industrious to spread arise from the differing construction which people put upon the thing called a Free-trade, and the insuperable difficulties which seem to attend it.

All our merchants know that the Spaniards (I mean by Spaniards the government of old Spain) in whatsoever circumstance considered, whether in peace or war, under Philip of Bourbon or Charles of Austria, will never be brought to consent to a general liberty of commerce with any colony or settlement the English may make on the coast of America.

By a liberty of commerce I mean just as your Lordship was pleased to explain it to me, viz., that such colony or settlement should be as the magazine or warehouse of English goods, which instead of being landed in old Spain, paying 23 per cent. customs there, then registering in the "contractation house" at Seville, and paying duty again there, and the effects of the galleons, which is the return, paying an indulto of 4 to 8 per cent. to the king, shall come directly from England custom free, and be admitted into all the Spanish dominions in America.

This is what I grant, and what everybody in town who knows the trade say, the Spaniards will not be brought to. I need not trouble you with other reasons than this, that really old Spain is ruined if they do, and the Indies (farther than barely the revenue of them to the public) are lost and of no value to them, comparatively speaking, if they should.

On the other hand, the very pretence of this undertaking will make a handle to the French interest, and will speak loud in Spain in favour of King Philip; since King Charles has by contract given them away to the English, who, as they say, are to enjoy the American trade for ever, whereas the French, with specious pretences of protecting the Indies now from the enemies of Spain, promise to quit all pretensions to the trade, in time of peace; and entirely to withdraw and recall all their merchants and all their people from thence.

I need not hint to your Lordship, that the people, who are enemies to the project on account of your concern in proposing it, think they have gained a great point in having so specious and, as they think, unanswerable arguments against the probability and practicableness of the design, and how they give out boldly that it is an inconsistency in itself and must, therefore, of mere necessity miscarry and come to nothing.

But if my thoughts of this affair are agreeable to you I am of opinion I might state this undertaking so that it might neither give umbrage

to the Spaniards abroad, or appear impracticable or inconsiderate to our people at home. I shall only lay it down in general here, but shall enlarge on it in particular and in print when first the heads of it have passed your opinion.

1. There seems to be no necessity of putting this term, a Free-trade, into the proposal, for the reasons following:—

1st. It is this only can give any pretence to the French and jealousy to the Spaniards.

2nd. It is this only which creates difficulties and raises suspicions and doubts of the success in England to the discredit of the design.

2. The thing will be in some degree a consequence without a public claim to it, on which lies the greatest part of the inconvenience, and the Assiento will be naturally the Company's.

3. Though we should have no such thing as a freedom of commerce with the Spaniards, yet will a settlement on the Spanish continent of America, especially in such places as may be named, be of sufficient consequence to justify the prudence of the whole undertaking, give a credit to the design and answer all the ends of a South Sea company, though their stock was to contain the capital of the whole subscription.

A scheme of which shall be laid before your Lordship whenever you please to direct it. I presume two great ends must be answered in the proposal:—

1st. Respecting the Government, that a debt of nine millions be at once satisfied and the Government eased of so great a demand.

2nd. That the creditors for that debt may receive some advantage above their six per cent. that may be so considerable as to raise their actions, and make them gainers by their subscription.

This, I presume, shall better be done by setting forth what the Company may and shall do which is feasible and probable, than by pretending to something impracticable or, at least, improbable which opens the mouths of malcontents and gives the enemies of the design an advantage, especially considering that the probable adventure shall be sufficient both to encourage the undertaking and answer the greatest reasonable expectation.

H. [Compton,] Bishop of London to the Earl of Oxford.

1711, July 17. Upminster—I received the enclosed from Rotterdam by the last post, by which I perceive they beg your Lordship's favour and patronage to the English Church there established very fortunately towards the end of King William's reign, and which certainly very well deserves the Queen's protection and your Lordship's, for the good of the Church and the Queen's subjects that are upon the place. The States there were very kind and liberal in helping towards the establishment of that Church even against the inclinations of those then in power; and, what was very unfortunate to them, the contribution towards the building of that church was very sparingly afforded through the frugality of the then Lord Treasurer and his Grace of Marlborough, which hath certainly left them under great difficulties to this time. But, after all, I would humbly advise your Lordship to let some of the Queen's ministers

there be authorised to inquire a little into the state of their settlement, and to give you an account how they find these gentlemen possessed of the title of overseers of the establishment of that church.

Enclosure.

Memorial, dated Rotterdam, July 7, 1711, signed by Wm. Thorold, Nich. Taverner, Christopher Bernard, Richard Davyes and Richard Davis.

SIR THOMAS WILLOUGHBY to the [EARL OF OXFORD].

[1711,] July 18—Asking for the wardenship of Sherwood Forest in the place of the Duke of Newcastle.

The EARL OF MORTON to [the EARL OF MAR].

1711, July 18—I have been so very ill since the death of our dear friend the Duke of Queensberry, that I have not been able to wait upon your Lordship. There is a particular that obliges me to write to your Lordship at present, which is the case of Sir Alexander Douglas, who at my desire by the Duke's directions did set up to be Parliament man contrary to his intentions, he being a gentleman of a very low estate, and having a great family to maintain. It was not for his interest, except he was assured to find here some help; therefore, I was desired to acquaint him that two hundred pounds every session should be punctually paid him, which made the gentleman lay out money to make himself be elected, and he hath since been at great charge in travelling above six hundred miles, and attending here during the long Session. He is a very honest man, and one whom I shall be answerable for, that he shall be always a faithful servant to your Lordship and to the present Government in everything that he shall be desired to be for. I therefore request that your Lordship would honour me so much as acquaint my Lord Treasurer of this particular, that the gentleman may be allowed what was promised him.

ROBERT MONCKTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 19—After I knew how kindly the Duchess resented the enquiry, as you may perceive by her answer, of which Jessop abated much of the energy of her dictates, I was resolved not to wait for the return of the post, not knowing but leaving it to yourself what use you might make of time and occasion, but immediately to dispatch my son express with this letter to inform you how matters stand here. By the way, I must tell you he knows nothing more but that he comes to you, and that even that he must let nobody know, and that was more than I could trust anybody else with or have the opportunity of sending unobserved.

But the thing is this, that the Duchess is entirely averse to the proposal we have made to her of Mr. Holles for my Lady Harriet, and harbours nothing more secretly and resolvedly in her breast than going to law, in which she was not a little heightened and animated by the assurances you gave her; but I have only time to tell you that she was so transported with your civility that, not knowing what the

consequence may be nor what you may think of doing upon the occasion, I would not neglect my duty to you in giving you as early a hint as I could of it, and the rather, too, because if anything does it it must be before the application from the Duke of Somerset is received? to which I have reason to suspect she had a great inclination.

There is another thing that would not tend to advance what I mean and what you will, I hope, essay, and that is if Mr. Jessop, in whom both sides have an entire confidence, should make them friends too soon, but this is certain that there can never be any more than peace and malice between them.

You may see a copy of the will which we dispatched by the last post to Harry Paget. Jessop says 'tis very unadvisedly drawn and leaves great blots to be hit by the heir-at-law. By the hand it is of Peter Waters' doing.

General H[ans] H[amilton] to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, July [19-]30, N.S. Cottes—I think I should err in my duty to your Lordship if I did not acquaint your Lordship with two things that created a little uneasiness amongst the officers of our army. The first and greatest is the lodging money in winter quarters being abridged (as is said) by an order from the Queen. This has been a small perquisite, not only during the last war and this, but even when a small body of English was sent into this country in Charles the Second's time, so that it was looked upon as part of their pay. My Lord Orrery used all his endeavours with the Council of State to have it continued, but has been overruled, for they have produced an order from her Majesty to take away that small advantage which did accrue to the officers.

The other is, the payment of our subsistence, &c., being taken out of Mr. Sweet's hands and being put entirely into Mr. Cartwright's, the former being very much in esteem by the generality of the army, and the other as little, the former always supplying whatever money was wanting for services in Holland, as bringing up recruits, buying provisions, paying for horses in the winter, &c., which can't be done by the other without a considerable loss.

The army marches to-morrow towards the enemy's lines, but I believe we shall hardly attack them though we threaten much. 88 will venture nothing till the election at Frankfort is over, so 'tis believed we approach the lines in hopes of bringing back that detachment of the enemy which is gone to Brabant.

Dr. Garth made a short visit here of three days; the morning after his arrival he was locked up about two hours with 73 [Marlborough] when no one else had admittance; he would willingly have stayed to see to-morrow's march, but was hastened away, and for more expedition goes to Ostend.

B. Zollicoffre to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, July 19—Mr. Davenant is at Frankfort without money or any possibility of credit, which has been exhausted by his having received nothing from the Treasury for above two years. This is the more grievous to him in regard of the unavoidable expenses he must be at in the great concourse of people that will be at the election of the Emperor. I hope that you will not think it unreasonable if there

should now be imprested to him upon this extraordinary occasion one thousand pounds to be deducted out of his arrears, since, perhaps, it may not suit to clear the whole at present. I cannot help saying it will look oddly that in so great a meeting of princes and ambassadors the Queen's minister should be the only person that is not in a condition to give a dinner. His father and his friends have done as much as they are able, otherwise he must actually have starved in the place, for his salary has all along been so small that he could lay up nothing to provide against a non-payment of two years.

I am wanted by him there as his secretary, but cannot stir without your Lordship's assistance, which with all respect and humility is implored by me.

MRS. DELA MANLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 19. From Mr. Barber's house on Lambeth Hill in old Fish Street—I had the fortune two years ago to publish some pieces for which I suffered imprisonment, injured my health, and prejudiced my little fortune. Though the performances were very indifferent, yet they were reckoned to do some service, having been the first public attempt made against those designs and that Ministry, which have been since so happily changed.

My friends have told me that I had some little pretence to be considered for what I had done as well as suffered, and my Lord Peterborough as well as Mr. Granville have promised to recommend me to your Lordship's protection; I hope I may venture to add that I had once the honour of a note from your Lordship, to command my attendance, which I endeavoured in vain.

My infirmities and misfortunes are forcing me away into a cheaper part of the kingdom If your Lordship think I have been any way serviceable, however accidentally, your justice will inspire you to give me your protection; if not, I hope your generosity will incite you to reward my good endeavours, whether by some small pension (which in probability I shall not live long to enjoy) or some other effect of your bounty, which I humbly leave to your Lordship's choice.

[H. WATKINS to JOHN DRUMMOND.]

1711, July [19-]30, N.S. Cote—I confess our affairs have not, since the war has been half a year old, had so melancholy a face as they have at present. Saucy language is always natural to the French, and it is no wonder they talk now in a more exalted strain than ordinary, though I am persuaded they do now only speak out what they always meant; it never could enter into my head they sincerely intended to yield up Spain and the Indies. We are in no condition to reduce them, and it is natural to infer that a people who have shewn so much aversion to a German king, will suffer the last extremity rather than submit quietly to his viceroy. If we can do anything here to better our circumstances, you may chance to hear of it in a few days, not from the side of Arleux, that project is already defeated for want of Monsieur Hompesch's being trusted with the intelligence money, but on the side of Arras. We are making roads to the lines the enemy have made that way, between the source of the Canches and the Ugy. We are gathering together all the outliers we can take in, and shall march on Saturday, in order to come at the enemy through

all their fences if it be possible. I find State and generals are all unanimous for this expedition; and if we come to action I cannot but believe the success, whatever it is, must end in a peace.

I cannot yet say much of the enemy's detachment towards Brabant, but it is thought we are not to apprehend much danger from thence, unless there be a general combination in the towns to a revolt in favour of their old friend and new sovereign. Brussels, which seems the most threatened, will have in it by this time a garrison of eight battalions and eight squadrons, which is more than sufficient to repel a sudden assault, and the enemy are prepared for no more, having sent, as we are told, only seventeen battalions and twenty squadrons, without cannon or baggage. Ghent has once cost them very dear, and I hope we shall make them pay as dearly for their present attempt, whatever it be that they design; though I can tell you *inter nos*, that we had neither been disgraced near Douay nor Arleux, nor alarmed with this invasion, if your deputies, out of a more than ordinary or prudent tenderness for the Chatellenie of Lille, had not wearied my Lord Duke into a compliance with their desire to march the army thus far for subsistence.

Hope is at present my chief support, and you are of a complexion not to be dejected while there is room left for hope. If we can do the work before the Emperor is chosen, which we seemed to defer till that election was over, it will be so much the better for us and him too, though it is very hard upon us that we must bear the burthen of the war, and others reap all the advantage of it. The States are certainly great gainers if they keep what they have, but that must be done by the same means it was got; they must either agree for what they have, or secure it by going forward, and that without grudging or repining. It is to no purpose to carry on the war at bay, and, indeed, it is impracticable; we must in the pursuit either make further acquisitions or restitutions.

I am very sorry for my Lord Orrery's indisposition. I believe you cannot but discern, when he is in health, that he has talents infinitely more proportionable to the post he fills than my good Lord of Strafford, and I could pass my time under him with some comfort; but when I have said that you must give me leave to add that I cannot wholly clear his conduct at Brussels, nor allow his reasonings on that subject to be just. He found the Council of State low enough, and your deputies very inclinable to keep them so. If they have now power to hurt us, it is chiefly owing to his Lordship; and if he did not choose the particular members of the Council of State, he chose to unite himself so closely with them, that they have been enabled to make head against all other opposition, and to get such power into their hands as may prove fatal to us.

As to the magistrates in the towns, they may almost be said to be his Lordship's choice, for if he had employed his negative voice, as he was solicited and importuned to do, there had not been such subject of complaint. I look upon his disagreeing with Monsieur Vandenbergh as a sort of justification of Mr. Cadogan's conduct on the same subject; however, I wish they could agree, for affairs cannot go right while they draw several ways. I told you in my last Dr. Garth was arrived here, and now tell you he intends to go away to-morrow. I cannot find he has been very lavish with his tongue, but dare venture to assure you, my Lord Duke has trusted him with nothing but what may be safely proclaimed at Charing Cross. I dined with his Grace the day after

the doctor's arrival, and he told us very merrily of the letters the doctor brought him from Lady Duchess, Lord Godolphin and Mr. Craggs. He said that by the colour and smell of them it should seem as if the doctor had made use of no other paper on any occasion during the whole voyage. You may believe he will have answer to the letters he brought, but they will be such as need not be whispered, and if he had anything to tell, you will not have your share of it, for he intends to go home by Ostend.

It is very much to be wished the Grand Pensionary may be supported. An honest interest can hardly prevail against him, and you can never have anyone in his place who will agree so well with my Lord Duke, notwithstanding which he could never bring his Grace into the Barrier Treaty, for which Lord Townshend and the Junto may chance one day to be called in question, which cannot but redound to my Lord Duke's honour, though it would show the world how little reason he had to be fond of men who used him so hardly.

Do not we want our oracle now at the Hague? 'Tis pity my Lord Duke has not the same power he was trusted with formerly to determine and solve difficulties upon the spot. His weight then always prevailed whatever scale he gave it to, and he was not complained of. The whole alliance might be destroyed while resolutions are coming from England. I would not confine this power to the person of my Lord Duke, if it could be vested in any others it might sometime be of singular use to us.

[Daniel] De Foe to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, July 20—Among several other things which, with your Lordship's approbation, I have had the honour to lay before you, I have taken the freedom to mention a dispute which I fear is now, without your interposition, coming to a very unhappy period. This is the changing the authority of printing the Bible in Scotland from the hands who have now with general approbation been entrusted with it for many years.

If it were the interests of the persons only who were concerned, though I see the ruin of many families lies in it also, yet it were no business of mine to mention it to you, who are better judge than to need any hints from me, and I better know my duty than to meddle with it. But as I have the honour of your commands to represent such things to you as may or may not be, for the public good, and for her Majesty's service in Scotland; and as I have had frequent letters from the Ministers there, expressing their apprehensions and uneasiness at the mischiefs which may (and I doubt, indeed, will) follow putting the printing of the Bible into hands who (as they say) are professed enemies to the Church of Scotland, and contrary in principle to orthodox religion in general, I thought it my duty humbly to move your Lordship that, if possible, a stop may be put in the Secretary's office to such grant, till your Lordship may have from better hands than mine a true account of the disorders which may attend it.

I doubt not but Mr. Carstares and those other ministers whom your Lordship knows to be judicious as well as zealous for the peace of her Majesty's subjects, will all give you the same account; and also that when you shall examine the merits of the cause, I mean as to the public peace, this order which, I hear, has just now been obtained, without any address to your Lordship, will pass a further test from

your judgment than has yet been thought needful. I humbly ask your pardon for this representation, which I do, purely on account of the satisfaction of that unhappy people, who I foresee will be most uneasy on this account. In any other respect I am perfectly disinterested on one side or other.

JOHN, ARCHBISHOP OF YORK to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 21. Bishopsthorp—At this time I would humbly beg leave to offer for your consideration whether Lord Downe (whom you know) be not a fit person to succeed the Duke of Newcastle in the government of Hull. His being in that place will be of great service for the breaking that interest in the East Riding which has always opposed your Lordship's measures.

I would also put you in mind of Mr. Hales, about whom the Prolocutor, Dr. Atterbury, has spoken to you. He is capable of doing great service towards promoting that noble design now on foot of having episcopacy and our liturgy established in Prussia, being well known there and in all parts of Germany.

[DANIEL DE FOE * to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, July 23—The two papers I have already sent your Lordship were only the thoughts in general which, in obedience to your commands, I have reduced to form on the South Sea expedition. I here offer to your Lordship a scheme for the practice, I hope it may not be less acceptable to you for that it has been formerly proposed, since I can assure you no eye ever saw the draft except his late Majesty and the Earl of Portland, and the originals were always in my own hand, till my Lord Nottingham's fury forced me to burn them with other papers to keep them out of his hands. They are here rough and indigested, but if you approve any of them in the gross I shall single it out to put in a dress more suitable for your service. Meantime I shall go on to lay the remaining schemes before you.

[*Enclosure.*]

In pursuance of a proposal for a settlement upon the coast of America, as well in the North as in the South Seas; which may be effectual for establishing a trade, whether with the Spaniards or no, and every way suitable to the present undertaking and encouraging to the subscribers, I humbly lay before your Lordship the several schemes following, some of them being the same which I had the honour by his Majesty's particular order to lay before him at the beginning of this war, and which the said King approved very well; and had not death prevented him, had been then put in practice. I present your Lordship only the heads, and shall enlarge on any of the particulars as you shall please to direct.

1. A proposal for seizing, possessing and forming an English colony on the kingdom of Chili in the south part of America.

The kingdom of Chili is particularly proper for an English colony, because by the situation and other properties it is more adapted for commerce, planting and inhabiting, which are the three articles especially to be considered.

* Signature torn off.

1. It lies between the latitude of 27 and 45 degrees, in a climate so tempered, both for the constitution of English bodies, and the production of necessary fruits for life, that all sorts of provisions, corn, cattle, and fruits may be raised by themselves, especially in the southern parts; and the whole country lying upon the coast such things are with ease carried to the more northern parts, which are hotter and more unfruitful. The want of which fruitfulness and temper of clime was evidently the ruin of the design at Darien.
2. The colony of the Spaniards being so remote and the countries between them and Chili being part under the line itself, and all the way between the tropics, it will be impracticable for them to march by land to attack our colony, and by sea it is supposed we may be always too strong for any attempt they can make in that part of the world.
3. This country as being too remote the Spaniards, as if they had been sated and glutted with the wealth of Peru, never entirely conquered, by which means, though they did possess the coast, yet the natives remain, and are very numerous, hating the Spaniards and willing to receive any nation that are likely to deliver them from the slavery they are under to the cruel and tyrannic temper of the said Spaniards.
4. These natives are a foundation of commerce, because they go clothed and would generally clothe themselves if they could obtain manufactures. They inhabit chiefly the hill countries, and the Sierra Cordilleras or mountains of Andes; from whence they bring gold and skins of beasts for exchange of goods.
5. By means of these natives, a correspondence of commerce will, of course, be carried on with the people of Peru and by consequence with the Spaniards. On the other side of the mountains, from whence they have a navigation to the Rio de la Plata, and the cities Le Conception and de Buenos Ayres; and which country the Spaniards call des Valegas or the Valleys. From whence to the North, they have a clear, plain country to the cities of Potosi and La Plata in the country of Peru. This will be a private trade among the natives.
6. The plenty of gold in Chili exceeds that on the coast of Guinea in Africa, and the Spaniards who bring great quantities from thence, would have much more if their improvident pride would permit them to encourage the natives to bring it in. But the treachery and cruelty with which they treat the Chilians have ruined the trade.

The best place for a capital city and colony in this kingdom of Chili is at the port of Baldavia as we call it; but more properly Valdivia, called so by the Spanish general of that name, who planted here—being an excellent port, a good harbour, and three fresh rivers falling into it, having a navigation almost up to Santiago north, and Villa Rica east, a considerable way into the country.

Here the climate is good, the country fruitful, the natives

courteous and tractable, and the wealth of the place in gold incredible.

The soil here will encourage the industry of our people, who will settle and plant, producing rice, cocoa, wine, exceeding rich and pleasant, and, on the north side, sugar and spices in abundance; but especially gold and saltpetre.

The air here is pleasant, agreeable, and healthy, the mountains of Andes being exceeding high, the winds from their tops keep the air cool, and on the other side the breezes from the sea keep it moist and moderate, and being in the latitude of 39 to 40 degrees it answers to our colony of Carolina, which is esteemed the most healthy of all our colonies in the north parts of America. Both to the north and south of this are several other ports very proper for settling smaller colonies, preserving the centre of strength and commerce at Valdivia, both for safety and strength of shipping.

2. To secure our passage to this colony, as well as to supply the colony itself with corn and cattle in case of need, and also for the refreshment and, perhaps, wintering of our men and ships in their pasage to or from the colony both going and coming *(sic)*; the passage through the Straits of Magellan being sometimes found impracticable.

It is next humbly proposed that a previous settlement be made on the south-east coast of America, between the Rio de la Plata and the mouth of the Straits of Magellan, where our ships may all touch in their passage out and home, whither convoys may go with them, and meet others coming home and bring them back.

It is observed that, by the accounts of all that have gone on shore here, the country is adapted for corn and pasture in especial manner, being a plain country covered well with good grass, vast downs, and valleys for feeding, and rich marly ground for ploughing, very little wood, and very good rivers; so that this country may be a magazine for supplying the Chilian colony with all manner of provisions, and for supporting the navigation against the length of the voyage.

Also a communication may be made by land from this colony to Chili, which will not be above 360 miles, which especially for intelligence may be easily performed; the voyage by sea being at the same time near 2,000 miles.

This colony I propose to be on the coast between the river De La Plata and the Fretum Magellanicum, but especially from Cape Redondo to St. Julien, and near the mouth of Rio Camaroni, which river is navigable within 200 miles of Valdivia, and rises out of the Andes aforesaid. All the sea coast here and the banks of this river have been discovered and appear to be excellent land to breed and feed cattle, sow corn, and establish a colony.

It seems that a colony on the coast of Chili could not be so well maintained as by the assistance of such a sister colony in the North Seas. But especially this northern colony may be useful to the navigation, the voyage to the other coast being so very long, and in time barks being built there for the currency of the trade between them the European navigation may end here, and the goods be respectively carried and fetched in sloops and barges of their own.

If any ships lose their passage in the Straits they may come back and winter here, or unlade here and return, which is most proper by reason

of the exchange of the seasons, their winter being our summer, so that the season most improper to pass the Straits in is the most proper to come to England in.

A post being established from hence to Chili in seven or eight days advices may come to England in about four months one time with another, very often in three months or ten weeks.

The colony on the north side is not appointed nearer the mouth of the Straits, because the climate is reckoned too cold and the air inclement and the country not at all fruitful or capable of improvement.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Mr. Guilot, South Sea."

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, [July 25-]August 4, N.S. Amsterdam—The French paper I had the honour to send your Lordship was by a valuable friend sent me, who will send me more when opportunity offers, and that of Lord Stair's is as great a secret as any can be, but it was necessary that one General More was let into it, who is an honest man. I have been at the Hague to procure an answer to some things Mr. Secretary St. John was pleased to desire of me, and therefore cannot have the satisfaction of writing so amply to you as I hope to do next week from thence. What I write this day to Mr. Secretary you may probably have the curiosity to call for. The Austrian family hates the Duke of Savoy, so there will be difficulty found to bring about that marriage, but the Queen's assurances to the Marquis Delburgo, the Savoy minister, who is come back to the Hague, have made his master very active, and he now writes out contributions to the gates of Lyons.

Our Pensionary Buys longs extremely for the honour of an answer from your Lordship, and I heartily wish that you may think it convenient to make him this compliment, viz., that you would be glad to see him in England, and that it might be of use to both nations. Nothing can please him more, and I can assure your Lordship he is hearty for everything you wish for.

I carry on a constant correspondence with Mr. Watkins, that your Lordship may have some information by his answers. He has great knowledge and judges generally very right; after your Lordship has read his letter, be pleased to read what I this minute receive from Lord Albemarle, to whose correspondence I am extremely obliged, and it is sometimes very valuable. I hope he survives this day, which is in all appearance the day of action by his Lordship's letter, and then I may hear farther from his Excellency before I leave this, which will be a few days after Lord Strafford's arrival. I heartily condole your Lordship on the untimely death of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, which is a double loss to you both as a sincere friend and a near relation. I hope he has left his daughter a legacy to my Lord Harley, your Lordship's virtuous son; were she heir to his Grace's entire estate and another rich Duke's too, she could never be in more happy hands.

In Lord Albemarle's letter read 28, the Duke of Marlborough. If the wind continue your Lordship may have some account of this action by this very post, which I hope will be attended with success. Our town continues to long for a peace, and so does this whole republic by the unanimous orders they have given to hazard an action; and fall out as it will a peace they think must follow.

Enclosure.

[The Earl of Albemarle] to Mr. Drummond.

1711, [July 22-]August 1, N.S. Camp de Beuvry—I have been detached with 10,000 men from the army to watch a body of the enemy's troops under Marshal de Montesquieu, and have just now received orders from 28 (Marlborough) to rejoin the army which marches to-day to attack the enemy within their lines. God give us good success in case we undertake this great affair! 28 tells me he is resolved to do it, but I declare that I doubt the result, the enterprise appears to me very dangerous, the enemy, in spite of detachments is yet much superior to us, and it is true that the defection of our army has been terrible this campaign and still continues. I hope that you will have further news from me before you leave for England, but in any case I recommend to you my interests with the Lord Treasurer, and knowing how much you are my friend have every hope of success.

Peace must be made as soon as possible, for our affairs are going from bad to worse, and we have everything to fear if we do not end the war. *French.*

Col. Horace Walpole to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, July 26—Applies for the government of Hull, vacant by the Duke of Newcastle's death, a very honourable post, yet not one of great value, and on that account he flatters himself that he is more likely to gain his Lordship's favour.

The Earl of Ailesbury to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, [July 26-]August 5, N.S. Brussels—Nothing but my unlimited zeal for her Majesty's service could oblige me to make this step and I hope her Majesty will make a just construction so agreeable to her natural and noble temper. I have no ambition but to see the Queen well served in all capacities and none knowing the temper of those in Bedfordshire by many years experience better than myself, having had the direction of that county both in my father's time as well as my own until the Revolution, I take the liberty to say, that the person under the Queen there should be of an unshaken loyalty, and one beloved and esteemed and of an engaging temper to win over sour tempers. In general the people are given to faction, there are worthy gentlemen amongst them, but they and their fathers before them declined serving in the country when my power ceased, and when the late King James turned all out by a pernicious advice and afterwards ordered to have them restored, they unanimously made me the compliment as to give that for a reason that at my request they took again their commissions. After I came out of the Tower I over-balanced the Duke of Bedford's interest, at the election then for the county, and had I stayed in England, the factious party had been won over by me, and they were treating with me. The elections for this Parliament may convince your Lordship how the county stood then affected and I think I may answer that nothing can conduce more to the Queen's service than my son's being over them, and whatever your Lordship is pleased to do for him and my brothers I shall acknowledge in the highest and most grateful manner.

KER of KERSLAND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, July 26—I went to Mr. Taylor and found his orders bore only 100*l.*

Nothing but necessity could oblige me to trouble your Lordship with a repetition of my case. When first I put myself under your Lordship's protection for relief against the hardships put upon me by Lord Godolphin I had the happiness to find you of opinion that my services had merited a kinder usage; but I urge this no further, only beg leave to represent that it is now near a year since I had your Lordship's commands to attend your service in this place and in affairs, though honourable, yet of a very formidable aspect to myself, since which time upon honour I have spent of my own near 500*l.*

I am loth to take notice of the loss I have sustained in my affairs at home, especially since my papers came from thence, which I both foresaw and told your Lordship would be the consequence of that attempt.

But whatever my own sufferings are I shall satisfy myself with the hopes that your justice will not suffer my creditors to have any share in my misfortunes, since the debts were contracted for her Majesty's service in this place; and my estate in Scotland so reduced as it cannot afford them any relief.

[E. LEWIS to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, July 26. Windsor Castle—The Duke of Som[erset] carried Colonel Panton to the Queen to let her know that the little credit the Duke of M[arlborough] has in the army, where he is believed to be under her Majesty's displeasure, is the great cause that this campaign is likely to be spent in inaction. Some are of opinion the Duke of Savoy has lately tried what money would do in this Court.

COL. J[AMES] PENDELBURY, Master-gunner, to EARL RIVERS.

1711, [July 27-]August 6, N.S. Avesne le Sec Camp—I doubt not, but Brigadier Sutton has given you a particular account of our getting into the enemy's lines, but the greatest difficulty still remains to take and secure a post, or else our passing the lines signifies not so much. In order to that we design to besiege Bouchain, but there are great difficulties in it, the enemy's army being encamped on one side, and running lines to keep a communication with the town, which to prevent we are working to invest the town.

This siege and the getting up our convoys of ammunition and bread from time to time will show a great deal of generalship. We are surrounded with their army and strong towns, from whence they get their bread and what they want, we only have Lille and Douay to have our affairs from, which must pass under the enemy's army, and Valenciennes where they have twelve battalions and four squadrons; I do suppose they will send more squadrons thither to incommode our foragers and convoys. Everybody almost except my Lord Duke and Cadogan are against this siege. If we don't take post our entering the lines will have no other effect than spoiling the Elector's project upon Brabant and Brussels, though it is not doubted if the enemy find they cannot hinder our taking the town they will detach on that side or get troops from Germany that are actually in march to take Brussels,

which we shall suffer them to do rather than lose the opportunity of taking Bouchain. If we could come to besiege it in form we might be masters of the place in twenty days. We are now living in their country, and destroying that forage which they preserved for their own troops to carry on the siege of Douay for which they had got everything in a readiness.

I hear your Lordship is suddenly to have the honour of the blue garter, therefore would not omit this opportunity to congratulate you on so honourable occasion. I take leave to put you in mind that I may not be forgot if any alterations happen in the Tower.

The Earl of Inchiquin to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, July 27. Dublin—Though a very old acquaintance may be worn out of your memory, your Lordship who had always abundance of goodness, will pardon me I hope, if I take the liberty to remind you that Mr. Harley, and Lord O'Bryen were once acquainted, and lived together at Mr. Foubert's, and though many years have passed since, and several accidents hindered me from seeing you, yet I have ever retained a pleasing remembrance of those virtues I early admired in you. They have brought you to some degree of the recompences that such merit ought to be distinguished by, and now I beg leave to crowd in my congratulations, among the very many who have had the honour to wish your Lordship joy on your most deserved promotions. I have lived a great while in a manner out of the world, but no part can be free from being informed of the great things my Lord Oxford has done and suffered, for his Queen and country's service.

I have a soul that induces me to take great share in what relates to their advantage and that obliges me, even at the distances of time and place, to presume giving you the trouble of a letter, and to assure you that though my name be altered, my heart is still the same.

The Earl of Inchiquin to his cousin [— Lundie].

1711, July 27. Dublin—The very great and good figure Mr. Harley (now Lord Oxford), has lately made in the world, has so touched all people that wish well to the interest and good of their Queen and country that you won't wonder I'm sure that I should be sensibly affected at it and though perhaps my Lord has forgot me, we once were well acquainted, and lived a good while together in a house at Mr. Foubert's. I remember he was always sober, virtuous, and good, and if I may without vanity say I was less "rakelly" than some others there, I have often since thought that induced him to show me a goodness and civility, which on many occasions he then expressed towards me, and as young as he was at that time he appeared to have a very solid judgment, and was very studious, yet he always showed abundance of good nature and affability; which gave me a very early respect for his great endowments, and though by the many vicissitudes and misfortunes of my life I have never had the happiness to see him since, the very great things he has done encourage me to take the liberty to congratulate him on his good successes which I am mightily pleased at, and I hope he will not take it ill that I remind him of our former acquaintance, which when I had the happiness to enjoy more nearly, I had as great a value and esteem for, as I could then be capable of and have since on many occasions reflected on him with great respect and veneration.

I was unwilling to send him abruptly a letter by the post, and have lived so long out of England that I hardly knew whom to employ to deliver one to him, but when I considered the long acquaintance, and intimate friendship you have had with the Duke of Shrewsbury, I thought it very likely you might be not be unknown to so good a friend of his; and therefore I venture to send you the enclosed [*the preceding letter*] and to beg you will either deliver it yourself, or get some friend of yours to it, that will let my Lord Treasurer know who I am.

The Duke of Ormonde to the Earl of Oxford.

1711, July 28. Dublin—The city of Dublin have for some time acted very irregularly in relation to the election of their Lord Mayor; and it pretty plainly appears that it is the effect of obstinacy and faction, in which they are supported and encouraged by some few to proceed in this manner in contempt of authority and contrary to her Majesty's prerogative.

There is one thing would touch the city very nearly, which is if her Majesty should put a stop for some time to the payment of the 500*l.* *per annum* from the Crown, and which by the grant in Charles the Second's time to the city is mentioned to be as a mark of grace and favour for the better support of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons, and Citizens of the said city. *Signed.*

A. Lady Pye to Mrs. Abigail Harley at Eywood.

1711, July 28. Derby—Sir Charles saw few friends in London, only waited on my Lord Treasurer, who seemed well recovered, but full of business. It is said here how he is importuned for places, impossible to satisfy all. I presume before this Lord Harley is chose in his father's room though I have not heard of it by private or public letters.

My youngest daughter is more like her father, by some liked the best, a jolly hearty young thing. I may reckon them now all grown up and marriageable, but country gentlemen's daughters must be content to stay; few go off except fortunes which these twenty years taxes makes most families want.

All our conversation of late hath been upon the untimely end of the Duke of Newcastle. He rid upon an old nag he loved and constantly used, but was become too weak for him. His pursuing the chace for two hours after his fall till the stag was killed was fatal. He was blooded at the Lodge, but so sore could not bear the chaise to go fast, got cold, and his blood stagnated. He was given over that night, but it was wondered two physicians should look on and try nothing but blooding again. A gentleman, who was one of his lawyers and agents, dined with us on Wednesday, and was telling me the great state he hunted in. Few princes in Europe could outdo it; and with all that his Lady is dissatisfied with the will and designs to controvert it. She hath sent to the lawyer to keep the courts in her name upon her father's estate. I think it is hard that any of it should go, especially Welbeck. The young lady has 12,000*l.* per annum, so that if she marries her cousin, Mr. Pelham, his estate will be prodigious; but my wishes were and are for another young gentleman you know and love that hath been named for her.

Last week I was at the sale of Lady Evory's, now Guise's, goods at Burton (the best, indeed, they had reserved), and saw in a few hours the house emptied she had to my knowledge been many years with great expense and nicety fitting and furnishing. I did not see my countryman, Sir John Guise; he hath the character of a fine gentleman. Her two former spouses gave her the power, the third 'tis thought she must vail to. Ashamed of this tedious scribble I end.

J. D[RUMMOND] to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, [July 28-]August 7, N.S. Amsterdam—The enclosed came from the army two days ago. We have had an easy passage over the French line, as your Lordship will no doubt have a particular account of from thence. General Hompesch has much of the honour of this affair from the Dutch, though the English accounts give Mr. Cadogan his share. Our Admiralty promises eight men of war to convoy over the English East India ships if they can be ready, but the Bristol South Sea men are frightened by your East India Company's threatenings, and will in all probability stay and set their cargo here. Dampier is alive, and one Captain Dover *alias* Doctor Dover seems to be the man of sense and conduct in all that affair.

Our Dutch project is going on under hand; they have got Burgomaster Corver, who governs this town more entirely than ever Burgomaster Hudde did, to have a good opinion of their project, which is owing to Vice Admiral Somelsdyk, who is now a great patron to this project, only the Vice Admiral making the proposal to this great man, the Burgomaster said, Sir, if you design to take anything by force, or to make war upon the Spaniards for this settlement, I desire not to be let into your project, for I am studying ways how to make the Spaniards our friends, and hope to have peace with them before your war would begin. The Admiral shewing that it was entirely in the possession of the Indians, brought the old gentleman, he thinks, into his opinion, but recommending to him as a friend to think on nothing that may continue the war or breed new disturbance, saying he would gladly see some peaceable days though he be eighty-three years old. This I have all from the Admiral's mouth, with whom I am as intimate as with anyone alive, and it was told me in the utmost secrecy.

The states of Holland are now sitting on the prohibition of commerce with France, and on our present circumstances in the Baltic in relation to trade, and about twenty-five ships taken from us by the Swedes. I find our great men have no other expectation or longing for success than to have the enemy come to some proposals before the winter. The King of Prussia's Treasurer of War, who dined this day at my house, has got a letter from Berlin that the King's brother and all the nobility near Pomerania are fled to Berlin, Crassau's army and the Danes and Saxons being in sight one of another, and a bloody battle feared every minute.

[DANIEL] D[E] F[OE] to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1711, July]—What is already offered to your Lordship on account of the trade to the South Seas being on the supposition of the impossibility of obtaining a free trade with the Spaniards in America, it remains to enquire whether if the proposal of the said trade may not

be made on a foundation as effectual and a prospect every way as advantageous and encouraging, yet at the same time liable to those objections which some people so diligently improve to make the world uneasy, and to lessen the value of the undertaking. If this can be done the reputation of the proposal, and by consequence of the proposer, which is what those people aim at, seems to be better secured, and any uncertainty which may afterwards appear in circumstances will not be placed to the account of the undertaking in general.

I beg leave to explain myself thus:—

That all proposals for the carrying on a trade to the South Seas should be made so that the substance or main stress of the design may turn upon making a settlement or colony (or several such) on the continent of America, and supporting it by the Government for improvement. Not laying any (or not so great) weight on an immediate commerce through the Spanish dominions (which people have already a notion cannot be obtained), as on the real advantages of having an English Colony on the continent of America, and in the midst of the gold, silver and other productions with which the Spaniards have so enriched themselves, and which the English are much more capable to improve than they.

On this foundation so much may be said, and the objections against it will be so few, so weak, and so easily confuted, that it is humbly conceived it will soon gain an universal approbation.

No man can object against the advantages of a Colony, provided the place be well chosen; and even those places in which the Spaniards could make little or no advantage shall be infinitely profitable to us; since England is qualified to grow rich even when the Spanish Settlement would perish and starve; because we are possessed of so many other Colonies which would be their support.

Thus we have improved Barbados, upon which there now subsists so many souls which if it were in the government of the Spaniards would eat up one another, the place being in no capacity to support and feed them; whereas by constant supplies from our plantations on the main land provisions of all sorts are often as cheap as in New England, New York, &c., from whence they come.

That a settlement made in America would be infinitely advantageous to England though there were to be no free trade with the Spaniards, is easy to prove; nor will the people be hard to take in the notion of it and understand it. The advantages are manifest and may be handsomely enlarged on, if New England, New York, &c., and our Colonies on the north, where the Spaniards thought it not worth while to plant, and where mere husbandry and labour have brought the inhabitants to such a degree of wealth and strength, have brought so great a trade. Planting on the south and west of America, where the soil and country are so naturally rich, and gold and silver are the immediate return, will much sooner and with much more ease make the trade great and the plantation flourish.

The advantage of private trade with the Spaniards will also be a constant addition as it is now at Jamaica and much more, since though the Spaniards will not open their ports and markets for us to sell, we shall always have an open port and market for them to buy. To carry on such a proposal and make it more intelligible I humbly suggest that schemes of proper places for such settlements with their respective advantages of trade may be laid before your lordship, and if approved by you may be made public; and that people may be taken off from

amusing themselves about difficulties and impossibilities, and may be led to a probable view of the thing which may be intelligible and encouraging, which schemes I shall humbly lay before you whenever you shall please to command me.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, August [1-]11, N.S. Amsterdam—I received the honour of your letter of the 7th instant this morning, and I immediately sent the enclosed for our Pensionary to the Hague whom I left there last night in good health, though not a little concerned at the neglect or omission our Generals in his opinion have committed by not attacking the enemy, who came and bravadoed them the day after we had got over their lines without any loss. The States Deputies called out to attack, the Duke called a council of war whether we should attack them or not, and his Grace contrary to his practice throughout all this war voted not to attack; Count Tilly, Lumley, Orkney, Dopf, Fagel, voted the same way; Prince of Anhalt would not vote, but declared he was ready to do what should be thought most useful; Monsieur Goslinga, that brave and worthy representative of Friesland, an old soldier, voted to attack immediately; Monsieur Veljelyn, representative of the Council of State, voted the same way; Monsieur Hooft, representative of Holland, &c., was on duty at some distance, but has since wrote to his brother, the Burgomaster here, in these terms:—God forgive them who hinder an end of war. Monsieur de Capelle representing Gelderland and Overyssel, &c., declared he could not vote, but would be glad if his brethren's opinion were followed, for that he never was in such an occasion before. Prince of Hess hereditary, and the Earl of Albemarle voted to attack, for now we had the auxiliary troops under command, and were uncertain how long we could have them.

I was sitting with the Grand Pensionary when the express came in; he was much concerned at our not fighting, and said, when the States consented to attack the lines, they consented to gain them by force and to fight the enemy, but I have wrote a long account of this to Mr. Secretary St. John, with several other informations he desired, which I must beg leave to refer your Lordship to, and I shall only add one instance I was present at in the Hague, and which I have not wrote to the Secretary, because I believe it was too passionate, and that the Duke may have good reasons for what he has done, besides a great majority on his side of old generals, viz., Count Sinzendorff had some German accounts, which were wrote with malice and passion by what I could hear, and he added as his opinion, that if he were a Prince who had a General, who had gained twenty battles, and had been guilty of this one neglect, he would hang him for it. Brigadier Sutton carries the news, he is a favourite of Mr. Secretary St. John's, and this is esteemed a piece of complaisance.

Pensionary Buys was very uneasy for want of a return from your Lordship, and entreated me in friendship and secrecy to hear from Lord Orrery if he had any instructions about peace, for that he found his Lordship on the reserve with the Grand Pensionary, as the Grand Pensionary is naturally with all men, though I must confess I find him friendly to me, though I cannot say very open; but I discover this, that he will not speak plain about peace, and if you will have him into it, you must resolve to write the Queen's inclinations first to him, or get Lord Strafford to tell them plainly and resolutely. His absence at

present is very surprising to them, and in my weak opinion does harm, and they give a hundred different reasons for his stay, which I call all false, except his patent, and to receive ample instructions. One reason they give is that he will not come till you pay him all his arrears, another is that he will not make such a peace as the Duke of Bucks and the High Tories call out for, but would rather have some other plenipotentiary come over with him, and the last reason is his soliciting for the Duke of Northumberland's regiment, his Grace being past recovery. His intending to marry is also given out. The Pensionary says now openly that Holland will have a new Company to America as well as England, and that England must not be jealous, no more than they are of your South Sea Company. It seems Van Huls has told them that you are uneasy at their erecting a new Company, which made them come on this subject with me. The Grand Pensionary I find, is not so hearty for Mr. Buys going over, for he wants to hear you say what Buys would be too apt to say to you. And, indeed, unless you will speak plain or cause your minister speak plain, I have reasons, too long to trouble your Lordship with by letter, which make me think they will continue, as they are becoming daily more defective, and force you to speak plain at last. I mean, some are of that intention who are great [friends] to a great man. But be pleased to w[rite] plain to Buys who is earnest for peace as all.....is, and he will get them to speak plain.....

I am heartily sorry for the great loss of the Duke of Newcastle, and the more for the unlucky manner he was lost by. I proposed, I think, to Dr. Stratford sometime since for my Lord Harley to make a turn over in this country. The seeing the election will not be worth while, and strangers are not allowed to see much, besides, it will be October ere it comes to the point, for Sinzendorff declares that Bohemia and Austria will not vote till King Charles be in person, neither do they think the election valid without his presence. It will be the coronation that's most worth seeing, and I shall have the honour to conduct his Lordship as far as Dusseldorp, the Palatine Court, where I have some interest.

As the great men desire me to stay till they hear what Lord Strafford says, I am unwilling to go to England sooner.

GEORGE GRANVILLE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 3—I dare not put myself under the lash of so great a critic as Mr. Dennis, by refusing to recommend him to your Lordship's favour. He has something to desire, which he says is of very little consequence any way but to himself.

The EARL OF JERSEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 4—By the manner you act with me, I have no reason to doubt of your friendship and assistance in my concern; notwithstanding that, I am not without some uneasiness, having met with, since I had the honour to see your Lordship, the history of the Prince of Wales revived upon the vacancy of the Privy Seal, so that, from a Court whisper I find that story by the malice of the inventors, and the countenance it meets with from the Queen, is become a more general discourse. My Lord, I hope her Majesty will consider the prejudice her Government may receive, in some cases, by false reports, and the

injustice to the innocent in believing them; the consequence of this to me is no less than the entire loss of the Queen's favour, and my reputation in my country, and all that upon no better grounds than a bare hearsay without the least appearance of truth. My Lord, this seems so very hard, to say no otherwise of it, that I cannot sit down quietly with it, and if those arguments that have already convinced your Lordship of the truth of this matter will not prevail with the Queen, I must desire your Lordship to ask leave of her Majesty that I may have the honour to wait on her, in order to my justification, and I doubt not but I can give so many instances of my loyalty and dutiful behaviour towards her, that 'twill be impossible for any to give the least credit to a report, whose circumstances disprove itself, and that has no other foundation than the malice of my enemies. I shall be at Old Windsor, and shall think myself obliged to your Lordship if I have an answer to this before you return to London.

[*Endorsed by Lord Oxford*:—"E. Jersey—Vindication from Jacobitism."]

ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM to the LORD TREASURER.

1711, August [4-]15, N.S. Rome—In this place we hear more of antiquities than news, unless it be new Airs and Sonatas. Lord Cornbury has made a good collection of music, which I promised should be made known at Court; he is a good youth and assures me he will be directed by her Majesty in everything. He intends to apply himself to your Lordship, his uncle Lord Rochester being now out of the way.

Lord Longueville goes from hence this night, but with a wounded heart, as you know all young men do that have been long in a place; he has good parts and reading too. He will be much directed by the Duke of Shrewsbury. He knows a little your Lordship, too.

Lord Lonsdale will stay here till September; he'll make a pretty gentleman, and as good a subject as he is a dutiful son; I have great pleasure in his company. He has not the honour of being known to you, but hears you were Robin Lowther's friend last year, and wishes you much joy on the honours the Queen has done your Lordship, particularly on your coming into the House of Lords, where he hopes you will exert yourself as much for the honour of the House as you did for the Commons while amongst them. I own the compliment to be natural, and do not doubt that it will be so, but though both are my particular patrons, I differ from you, and will be for the Commons while I live.

Just now, I hear there has unluckily happened a difference at Florence, between my Lord Cornbury and the Queen's Envoy, about the first visit. They wrote to me for my opinion of it. For my part, I will not meddle between the Queen's cousin and the Queen's minister, besides, both are my friends, 'tis my *Genio* to keep friends, though I'm not the better of them, to seek one is sometimes the losing both. However, I have advised them as a good Christian not to be high-minded, and to mind the new Commandment to love one another. I think Lord Cornbury should have notified his arrival to the Envoy, and that the Envoy should have prevented his visit, upon my Lord's being a Peer. I proposed to them some expedients to make both easy, but the clinch is that Lord Cornbury is in company with some gentlemen that have no regard to the Q——'s character, nor own her Majesty's right to give one, so expedients are to no purpose. Lord

Lonsdale says if the Envoy will not see him first, he resolves to see Mr. Molesworth without ceremony. I shall not meddle in it, but should wish that matter were settled, that the character may not suffer. I once had a business with Sir Lambert Blackwell on his pretending not to return gentlemen's visits, I wrote to Court of it, let him know we wanted not the King's minister to introduce us. We broke him then of that breeding, but I own this point is of another nature, and wish injunctions be given to Envoys about making the first visit to Peers or not. I know Mr. Molesworth has the greatest esteem for Lord Cornbury, 'tis only the Queen's character that hinders him from paying him all the respect imaginable. It is to be wished it were decided by the Queen.

SIR ROBERT PRICE, Baron of the Exchequer, to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1711, August 6. Exeter—Coming near the end of my circuit I was very ambitious of giving you a narrative of what happened here. One Mr. John Burredge, of Topsam, a master of a merchantman and brother to him who was member for Tiverton and receiver of this county, was indicted for saying that the right of electing Kings and Queens of England is in the people, and, further, that the present Parliament are a mob; they were chosen by the mob, and therefore a mobbish Parliament. He was found guilty and fined 100*l.*, which he paid to the Sheriff. Mr. George Cole, another master of a merchantman, was indicted for saying 'Damn Dr. Hen. Sacheverell, all who voted or acted for him' (meaning the members of both Houses of Parliament) 'were for bringing in popery.' Upon evidence it appeared the colloquium was of the then ministry and not of the Parliament, and he was found not guilty; he had a very good character, but then happened into the company of some Dutch merchants who drew him into the discourse.

Mary Whitehorne was indicted for saying 'I do not know but 'tis a sin to keep the 30th of January, for King Charles the first was a very wicked man, and often in his time went to mass'; upon which a special verdict was found. One Elizabeth Whitehorne was indicted for saying, 'the Queen should take care for fear she should have her head cut off or have a rope about her neck and pulled out of her throne'; the indictment not being well drawn nor exactly as the words were spoken, Serjeant Hooper quashed it for the Queen, in order to have it better drawn the next assizes.

There was an extraordinary zeal showed by some in favour of these offenders. I could not forbear to tell them and the country that it was not consistent with their profession of affection to the Queen to countenance such people and such words.

The Queen has been at a considerable charge in the prosecution of Burredge, and I am since informed that the fines and all the green wax duty of this circuit have been granted to my Lord William Poulett, so the Queen pays 50*l.* out of pocket to get my Lord William 100*l.* I must confess I have had a difficulty upon me, that though these grants have been usual, yet I cannot believe them to be legal.

I have had here twelve burglaries, which were for very small things, and yet the Queen must have paid 40*l.* for each. I left them with an air of indifference to the jury, whether they would find them simple felony or burglary upon their several indictments; and they inclined

to mercy as I did, and found them guilty of simple felony, which has saved the Queen twelve forty pounds, and they are, every man, 'listed soldiers.

There is a mighty clamour in Cornwall, there are two hundreds that have no justice of the peace who will act, and a great many here in this county, and indeed all over England; and for no other reason but that their dedimus must be paid for by themselves, which is a shameful thing, but that is their humour. I have spoken to my Lord Keeper and his predecessor upon that head, and wish that some way were found to satisfy the Secretary of the Commission of the Peace and the Clerk of the Crown, at least, for this time, that the dedimus should be sent gratis. I pray take no notice of this from me, lest I might be thought to intermeddle with what is out of my province; yet I have been very free, both in my charges and in private in telling gentlemen how ungrateful they were to their friends and insensible of the Queen's favours, that they would decline the Queen's and country's service, for such a trifling pretence.

I am now going for Wells, and thence for Bristol, and so my circuit ends. I shall spend the residue of my vacation at the Bath, still wanting my health everywhere but there.

The Duke of Leeds to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, August 11—Concerning the renewal of his pension, which was charged upon the Post Office.

William Bromley, the Speaker, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, August 11—Recommends Mr. Kimberley, chaplain to the House of Commons, to one of the vacancies in the Church of Westminster.

Is glad to hear Lord Dupplin is one of the Tellers of the Exchequer. He is so pretty a gentleman, so generally well beloved, that he is sure their friends will universally approve it.

Ri[chard] Goulston to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, August 13—I this evening waited on your Lordship to acquaint you how impossible it is for me to undertake a part in the Commission designed for Spain. I am sensible of the great honour intended by this particular trust, and indeed it would be most agreeable to my own inclination, were I not the master of a family, which can by no means spare me so long as an affair of that nature will require.

T P. to [Daniel] De Foe.

[1711,] August 15. Edinburgh—You revived me by your last, when you tell me that our Scots Tories are sent down with disgrace, and have scarce got a footman's wages for their blind services. I am also glad to hear that my friend, R. Cunninghame, has the greatest interest of any Scotsman with the Treasurer. I desire no other Scots Secretary will feed the better when he rules the roast. I hope worthy Mr. Carstares is at London by this time, his chief errand, as I am told, is to preserve Montrose and Leven. God grant him success, be sure

to keep up this alarm about the medal, Rippeth hath done us Knight's service in England. I hear Mr. Dundass will be at the press again about the medal, that may afford you some work for your happy pen. I hope in a short time to see all matters at rights again. I see a letter from R. Cunninghame, wherein he tells that there are great differences arisen among our great men, and that the Duke of Salisbury *(sic)*, as I remember, has left the Court, and that the Tories will in a short time ruin themselves. It were no small misfortune if our great man were as good at keeping in himself as he is in turning out others. Let Heaven never bestow upon him that blessing. Pray let me hear from you frequently.

BOUCHAIN.

1711, August 16—Plan of the position of the allied armies before Bouchain.

The SAME.

No date—Plan of the position of the French army before Bouchain.

The DUKE OF ARGYLL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August [17-]28, N.S. Camp at St. Columba—I have received the honour of your Lordship's letter of the 24th of July and think myself very much obliged to you that you are pleased to take notice of the concern I had, and shall always continue to have for your welfare.

I return you my most humble thanks for the assurances you are pleased to give me of your protection and the particular mark you tell me you have lately given of procuring for me the continuance of the payment of my pension, upon which subject I would beg you to consider if it is not reasonable since her Majesty was once pleased to settle it upon me during her life, that I should have it re-established in the same manner, but I most heartily submit it to her Majesty and likewise to your Lordship if I have done anything since my first obtaining it, that has deserved its being put upon a different foot.

I have writ so fully in relation to the state of this service in my letters to my Lord Dartmouth that I need not give you any trouble besides that, being to return when Mr. Killegrew comes back, I shall be much better able to inform you by word of mouth than I can by letters. I shall only as to my private part acquaint you with the resolutions I have taken upon the maturest consideration that I am capable of, which are so soon as I come to England to give a faithful account to her Majesty of what I have learnt relating to this service, with my humble opinion as to the measures to be taken for the future, and if I can have any prospect of being able to do her Majesty service, I shall offer myself to go to whatever part of the world she is pleased to employ me in; but if the circumstances of affairs will not admit of my being capacitated to serve her Majesty with success, I will most humbly beg that I may have leave to retire without her displeasure, to whom I shall always in whatever state I am zealously pay the duty I owe her on many accounts and study upon all occasions to show the respect and deference I have for your Lordship and the rest of her Majesty's present ministry.

DR. GEORGE SMALRIDGE to [LORD HARLEY].

1711, August 17. Hampton Hall, near Rickmansworth—I sent on Sunday last to my Lord Treasurer, by his commands, a list of names out of which he might pick some whom he should think proper to be Commissioners for the building of churches. I would also recommend as secretary to the Commission our actuary of the Lower House of Convocation, Mr. Thomas Rouse, a proctor of the Commons, one who has a numerous family and a small subsistence for them.

I told his Lordship at Windsor of an offer made to me of the living of Aynho by Mr. Cartwright. I never made any application to him for it, and when I accepted it, I thought it became me to tell him what residence he might expect from me. By his answer I find that he thought I would have left the town and resided altogether at Aynho, which since I can't do he hopes I will excuse him that he gives the living to some one else who can.

The DUKE OF ORMONDE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 19—Lieut.-General Ingoldsby that will have the honour to present you this letter is a gentleman that I must recommend to your Lordship's protection. He is a gentleman very zealous for her Majesty's service, and therefore I hope you will recommend him to her Majesty as a person deserving the honour of her favour.

He can give you a true account of this country, and of the people's inclinations and you may depend on what he affirms.

EARL FERRERS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 19—Asking him to be godfather to his daughter who had been born that day; the Queen having promised to be godmother, and the name suggested for the child being Stuarta.

EARL DELAWARR to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 20. St. James's—Thanking him for his favour to the Prince of Denmark's servants, of whom he was one, the Queen having been pleased to continue their salaries, out of her affectionate regard to the memory of the Prince.

The DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 21—I know your time is now so taken up, that we cannot meet without an appointment, which therefore I desire though but for a quarter of an hour at your own time and house; and that you may not delay it beyond to-day, I will just mention the business, which is no less than that of the Chancery or rather Chancellor. Since of all things it will be fatal to differ among ourselves in what we say to the——, which is the principle you shall find I follow exactly at this time. I desire but to know the mind of my friends and particularly yours in that matter, being quite unengaged and entirely resolved to concur in any man or manner you like best provided only I may know time enough; and not only so but to be as active also (to my poor power) as I have been in the rest already.

The Duke of Ormonde to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, August 21. Dublin—Informing him that everything relating to Convocation was settled and quiet and that he proposed to go to Kilkenny to review the horse and dragoons. Is very glad his Lordship has settled the South Sea Company, and wishes all success imaginable to the undertaking.

[Mrs. L. M. Cressett to the Earl of Oxford.]

1711, [August 22-]September 1, N.S. Zell—I have not been at Hanover since my last letter, but his Electoral Highness has been within a mile of this place for eight days for partridge shooting, but as there was no lady with him I had not the honour of paying my respects to him. He returned to his country house near Hanover on Thursday last. Before his departure he reviewed some of the troops which were to march "*pour la neutralité*," but that has been changed, and they have all returned to barracks.

I am always, my Lord, at your orders. The season advances, but I beg you to be assured that whatever affection I have for my poor little family, I am ready to sacrifice all for the Queen's or your service. *French.*

Sir J. Isham and Thomas Cartwright to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, August 23. Lamport—Asking him to prevent the Duke of Grafton from obtaining a grant to himself and his heirs of the office of chief ranger of Whittlewood Forest, which would be undesirable considering the interest the Duke already had in the underwoods of the Forest, and the influence it might have on the county elections, by reason of the great number of freeholders that have right of common within the precincts of the Forest, as also on the adjacent corporations of Buckingham and Brackley.

[Daniel] De Foe to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, August 24—It was my great misfortune to miss the moment of your Lordship's leisure when I had the honour of your last appointment; and as what I offered in my last was, as I thought, very much for the public service, I mean my going northward, so I have wished earnestly for your opinion, according to which I desire to govern all my steps in these affairs. I have been interrupted by indisposition in my attendance on your Lordship, which I hope I shall now be able to retrieve. I humbly beg you to believe I have no end in my proposal, but to preserve the interest and correspondence which I first fixed there by your command, and which I hope always to improve and employ with your approbation for her Majesty's service, and indeed for the service and interest of that people, who want nothing so much as to know what is their true interest and how much their interest and their duty to her Majesty are twisted together and built upon one foundation; and a little to be warned from joining in with some honest but weak people here whom you need not have me describe.

I cannot close this without sending you a printed paper which is a test of the forwardness and boldness of a party among us. I make no comments on the subject but shall acquaint you of the manner how I obtained it when I shall have the honour to wait on you, which I shall attend for as usual every evening.

LORD RUGLEN to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 26, Woodhall—I have sent the bearer, Lady Orkney's servant, to receive the fifty pounds you have been pleased to appoint for Lord Cassilis's quarterly payment. The receipt shall be signed by my wife or me, as you shall direct.

Mrs. Hutchinson and Mrs. Shalcrose, my wife's mother and aunt are mighty desirous to have Lord Cassilis get a good education, and when I proposed Westminster school as the best, and that it was your opinion also, the ladies seemed fearful and inclined rather to have him at that school taught by Mr. la Place near Ormonde Street, they judging it freer from vice; he would get the French tongue with his Latin, and not be so much exposed. This I am desired to lay before you.

The BISHOP OF LONDON to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1711, August 27—Upon receiving her Majesty's gracious recommendation to the Bishops by the hands of my Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, I thought it my duty to acquaint you, that it appears to all I meet with too general for having the intended effect because the late bold assertion of Dr. Whiston's heresy is so lightly, if at all, touched upon, especially since his late bold paper for inviting subscribers to the putting out his works, with a promise to conceal their names in the face of the world, and no antecedent censure from the Convocation. This I say to your Lordship in great confidence, which I should not utter to any person breathing besides, for my entire assurance is in your friendship and wise directions.

LORD YESTER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 28, Dagaty—Since by your being in so high a station, I hope that now our constitution and the Protestant succession shall be secured, faction suppressed, and the public credit preserved. Your Lordship will excuse the freedom I take by this to give my humble opinion how those ends may be attained in this part of Britain, and we made easier than we are at present under the Union, which is first by a more frugal and extensive dispensing of her Majesty's favours, than hath been done formerly. This the Duke of Queensberry's death capacitates your Lordship to do. The next thing I advise is that men of integrity be employed in business who have not been the known heads of parties and who will not easily betray their trust and friends, or those who have advanced them and whose ambition may be easily bounded. There are a set of men called the Squadron, among whom I can pretend to some interest and if trusted may make them of use to your Lordship, but if neglected they may prove troublesome. The Presbyterians since the Duke of Queensberry's death having no head whom Mr. Carstares hath the confidence to bid them trust must necessarily join them and be at their direction. This makes them now a strong party. I thought upon that Duke's death to have written to your Lordship that I might have gotten his post of Extraordinary Lord of the Session. I fancy neither the Dukes of Hamilton, Atholl, nor Argyll, would have openly opposed me, considering my relation to them all. It may be our Jacobite Tories might have done it and by-the-bye I must assure your Lordship that you are none of their favourite, which they will make appear upon the first occasion. But upon hearing of so many pretenders to that post, and that some

have wrote down of their having the Queen's promise, I forbore. However our family, at least my father, hath a claim to some mark of her Majesty's favour upon an account no other can pretend to, since the Revolution, which is that during the short time he served he saved the Government five thousand pounds sterling. This for the example's sake and the rarity of the thing, should not be forgotten. If it be not now too late I must again entreat your Lordship to take care that proper men be chosen to fill up the vacancies in our Judicatures and in the new Commissions of Excise and Customs, where there are great mismanagements and disorders to be rectified, occasioned by the employing of men, as they are recommended by the heads of parties. I am forced to keep to generals, for fear of encroaching too much upon your Lordship's time if I should be particular both as to persons and things.

So begging pardon for this trouble, I add no more but to assure your Lordship that if I am employed none shall be readier than myself to support her Majesty's Government, maintain the constitution, and to discourage faction.

[DANIEL DE FOE* to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, August 27—I had not given your Lordship this trouble being so near the appointment I have of attending you, but on the occasion of what you were pleased to observe to me of the magistrates of Edinburgh not doing their duty in the case of the virulent pamphlets published there by Dundas and others.

I humbly take this occasion to represent to your Lordship that the madness and insolence of the Jacobites in Scotland is come to that height that the magistrates are dispirited and awed by them, and in general this has been obtained by those people asserting on all occasions that the Government is with them and supports them, allows and countenances them.

I doubt not but they will go on till they force the Government to resent. But it wants but little of their believing, not only that they will not but that they dare not strike.

On the other hand the magistrates are intimidated, the Provost and Baillies are honest, but they want some encouragement from your Lordship or the Queen, that they shall be protected and countenanced by her Majesty in the discharge of their duty. I need not trouble you with the accounts I have from several hands of this, and how the Jacobite party boast themselves of it, yet I cannot but with a plainness which I hope you will allow to be my duty observe that there are unhappily a party among us, whom I need not name, both there as well as here, who take great pains from these things to possess the minds of the people that the Ministry are not in the Revolution interest; that the ends of all these things are the dissolution of the establishment and the bringing in the Pretender; that the Ministry aim at overturning the Union, the Succession, and the Constitution. It is not needful to hint to you, whom these things are pointed at; nor is it sufficient to render it doubtful to say, 'tis aimed at their benefactor, and they cannot be so ingrate. There are people had rather the vessel should sink, though they run the risk of shipwreck in it, than that their own pilots should not steer; these are the men your Lordship must save against their wills, and (like Heaven to us all) must do good to, while they do evil to you.

* Signature torn off.

But there are some honest men yet, whose eyes are open; who abhor the faction and ingratitude of the other; and who being true and firm to your Lordship and to the Government, should (pardon me that arrogance) be cherished and encouraged, I mean should in order to keep up the Government's interest and balance the mad men on both sides. One of my letters from Scotland from a man true to the Queen's interest and to the best measures of preserving it, has the following expressions which I beg leave to quote in this case:—

> "The narrative of the Act of the Faculty, a copy of which was sent to the Queen, if narrowly enquired into, will be found not to give a full or true account of matter of fact, but it passes *cum ceteris erroribus*. If the Government shall let this affair of the medal drop through their fingers, what the Jacobites on one hand give out, that the Government is on their side, and what the Squadron gives out on the other hand, that the Ministry are for the Pretender, will be so far confirmed to the people, that all honest men and friends to the Queen and the present Ministry will be silenced, and all that you or any man can say will never be able to remove the jealousies of it out of the people's thoughts."—Thus far my letter.

My unfeigned zeal for your Lordship's person and interest, and the sense of many obligations I lie under to espouse both, make me importunate with you that both these sorts of people, whose aims point, one at the person, Crown, and Government of the Queen, and the other at your person and administration, may receive their respective disappointments, and this is one reason why I moved to you my going north, neither the place or the people making it desirable, but that I might be where I may render you most service. I humbly lay this matter before you that the insolence of a party in Scotland may be suppressed, her Majesty's faithful friends and servants encouraged, and a weak, foolish, out of temper party here, and there also, be effectually disappointed.

The Earl of Eglinton to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, August 28. Eglinton—Knowing you to be taken up with affairs of the greatest importance I have delayed earnestly to entreat that your Lordship would be pleased to use your interest with the Queen, that the Lord of Sessions place, now vacant by the Duke of Queensberry's death, may be conferred upon me. Were this a profitable post, I would not with such freedom ask it, but since it is solely a mark of her Majesty's favour I hope it will not be refused me, seeing I shall esteem it a sufficient recompense for my past and future services. I had the honour to serve the late King, and this Queen, as one of the Lords of their Treasury, and though it is true I was turned out by the Squadron for being against their Act of Security and not concurring with their limitations of the Crown, yet I was 'reponed' by a special warrant before the Union, and those who left their places at that juncture have either got others, or an equivalent. For my part this of the Session shall satisfy me for all, and I do protest to your Lordship my main reason for pressing this so earnestly is, that I may be the more capable to serve her Majesty, which I am sure I did to the utmost of my power and with good success in the last elections.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 30—The news your Lordship told me is now become more public, and I am sure will have a good effect towards the North both of Britain and Europe. The hints you gave me of a greater affair are very noble, and well secured will gain you immortal honour. But pray allow me to say you can never be secure of anything from that quarter, unless they think the Queen's affairs in such a posture, as to be afraid of her; while she is feared, you may command, and make the best figure ever man did in England, but you can obtain nothing, if they see you under difficulties. This consideration makes me more than ordinarily concerned at the sinking of credit in the City, and the unaccountable fall of the Stocks. Your Lordship's prudence will find some remedy for this disorder, and make us keep a good countenance till you have finished the work.

The EARL OF DARTMOUTH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, August 30. Windsor Castle—The Queen is very well and cheerful. We talk of nothing but our new Minister [the Bishop of Bristol, made Lord Privy Seal] who is expected here to-morrow, as is my Lord Chamberlain [Shrewsbury], but his Grace's being a much longer journey is not so certain.

JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1711, [August 29-]September 8, N.S. Amsterdam—Mr. Secretary St. John will have informed your Lordship of the conference I had with the Pensionary Heynsius and the subjects of his letter of the 17th past, O.S., and I have since had a great deal of Pensionary Buys .....* both the Grand Pensionary and he..... impatience the plan which your Lordship.....have proposed to them, I mean prepared.....and they would immediately conform themselves and the States resolutions to it as far as is possible, and if in anything they should differ from your Lordship they will give all the satisfactory reasons in their power, and doubt not of coming to a speedy determination which they now think absolutely necessary, seeing there is so much hope of coming upon terms of a treaty with the enemy, and that friends ought to be fully agreed upon everything ere they do treat with their enemy. I told the Pensionary on this last expression that the Queen's Ministers had long signified to him, that it was very necessary that her Majesty and the States opened their hearts to one a[nother].....their private and separate interests.....if there were any such thing and.....

He complained of my Lord Strafford's stay, he did not mind how long he had left the Queen without any Minister from this State; he was pleased to tell me that he took this plain way of reasoning very kindly of me, and that his answer should now be as plain, but that he had promised secrecy to Lord Strafford and was sorry he could not give me this satisfaction sooner, and so begun to tell me that when Lord Strafford had his last conference with him and the two other treating Pensionaries Buys and Vander Dussen, his Excellency promised to return in fourteen days to them with such a plan as the enemy

* This and many other parts of Drummond's letters are decayed from the motion of damp.

should lay down in.....a general treaty, and that this .....might be particular, and the enemy.....dwell on generals if they were to do.....business and have us depend on anything they proposed; that as soon as my Lord Strafford was returned he, viz.: the Pensionary, was to fix upon a person to propose to the States to go over as Extraordinary to the Queen alone informed with relation to affairs of peace, and the common affairs to be left to the Ordinary, which Zeeland has not been pressed to name sooner because they would rather have the Extraordinary first; and that he always was of opinion that Mr. Buys is the fittest person to go to England were his assistance here not absolutely necessary, for his town of Amsterdam will have him Plenipotentiary at the treaty of peace, and there is no one at present who has the capacity or application which he has for that nature of business, but that.....is the man who must make my.....my Lord Albemarle still the person.....ite .....the Queen.

In this Mr. Buys differs with the Pensionary Heynsius, for Buys has not that tranquillity of mind that the old gentleman has, he thinks you are running away with the trade, and that you are far advanced and keep them in the dark, and by what they hear from others and the accounts they have from their own friends, you have had emissaries in France, and received long ago from them more than you have communicated. I had too much knowledge of all their proceedings this war to answer my friend Mr. Buys pretty smartly on this subject, I run him up immediately six different emissaries they have had in France this war, and many different correspondences of which they never communicated almost any to the Queen, and I told him at last if he thought that he had any reason to be so inquiet and thought himself not fully informed of what passed, which I believed in my own conscience he had no such reason of taking umbrage about, he had not the Queen's Ministers to blame but those of the States', for that Vrybergen had behaved himself so as not to be trusted, and since his death the State seemed to have the management of all in their own hands, and not think it necessary to supply his place, and that they let Lord Strafford go over hardly half informed of what his Excellency might justly have expected. Here he said, I run in to all his sentiments, and began to lay the blame of all this another way, but I told him the Pensionary Heynsius he would find more moderate on the subject, and that he had that faith in the Queen's Ministers which they deserved, upon which he begun to compliment, &c.

But what I would chiefly say as to his differing from the Grand Pensionary, he is of opinion that he himself or some other very capable person ought immediately to be sent over to the Queen from this State and before matters come to any advancements with the enemy to agree the chief heads with the Queen, what peace will please both, what terms to insist upon, and all other considerations of that nature, and that that person may come over again in two or three weeks, and then my Lord Albemarle go over to be with the Queen to report the States proceedings and intentions from time to time, and receive the Queen's concurrence to such things as the States may think proper to facilitate or not to insist too much upon, and he agrees also that my Lord Albemarle would in that case be the most proper person, and that he could be in England on pretence of his own affairs. I have promised to both Pensionaries to wait on them on Wednesday to-morrow at the Hague, Mr. Buys being gone there this morning, and

I believe Mons. Vander Dussen may be there also; this meeting I believe is appointed because they expect in this evening letters from England and hope that I may have some new orders from the Secretary of State to communicate to them, though I have told them that they are to expect no particulars through me, for that my Lord Strafford will come over with them as soon as they are given.

Our brave South Sea adventurers run a great risk of losing their ships in the Texel in this season, and wait impatiently a good convoy, their men begin also to be mutinous and to grumble, and now they resolve to go over and have sacredly kept to their duty and not sold one pin's worth here.

Lord Balmerino to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, September 1. Edinburgh—When I came to this place I found people not very well pleased with what passed last Session in relation to our linen cloth and naval stores. I gave them the best account of these that I could, endeavouring to satisfy them that hereafter things would be carried with all due regard to our interest. The importation of victual from Ireland is a great prejudice to this country and is expressly prohibited by law and particularly provided against by the Articles of Union. There is a great clamour upon the account that the law is not executed, and there is an Address preparing by the gentlemen of this and of other shires to be made to her Majesty that some remedy may be found for this. I was upon this occasion with Sir James Stewart (late Lord Advocate), he thinks the only effectual course will be to employ an independent company of soldiers as has formerly been practised with success.

As for ecclesiastical matters, things seem to be very quiet and calm on all hands. Some of the Episcopal ministers were with me, deputed by their brethren. I am glad to see them so sensible of the Queen's favour and of the justice which the House of Lords did them, I hope they shall always continue in this dutiful and peaceable temper, and my poor endeavours shall not be wanting to confirm them in this good disposition. I never thought Mr. Greenshields his coming to Edinburgh would be for the interest of the Episcopal clergy; they are living very quietly and I am sure they do not want him here, and on the other hand the Presbyterians would look upon it as insulting them if he should settle here. This he knows to be my opinion, but withal I presume to recommend him to your favour for a benefice in England, which is both just in itself and will effectually put an end to his projects upon this place. The late Earl of Rochester promised to me to be careful of him; I hope you will be pleased to supply any loss he has by the want of that noble Lord.

I am sensible this letter is too long and yet I cannot forbear saying a word concerning the magistrates of Edinburgh, I find they are very desirous to be in good correspondence with the Sheriff of Mid Lothian, which by the Queen's favour and your Lordship's procurement I have the honour to be. I find they are well pleased with the conduct of my deputies and I shall endeavour that they shall never have any reason to complain. They have some projects for the good of this city, but though they be not yet ripe I hope this ensuing winter to have the honour to lay them before you.

EDWARD KNATCHBULL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, September 1. Hatch near Ashford—Having observed several removes since I waited on you, and the particular I long since made my application for being disposed of, I fear being out of your sight I am the more out of your thoughts. I have no reason to distrust that you should be unmindful of one who so early 'listed in your service but who is yet unprovided for; and yet I flatter myself with hopes of soon receiving your commands which I dare not presume to expect from your own hands, though a country neighbour of mine, not unknown to you brags he often corresponds with you and sometimes vouchsafes to give you his advice.

R[OBERT] MOLESWORTH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, September 1. Dublin—There are things a doing in this kingdom and especially in relation to this city, that I am sure you cannot approve of, if they were set in a true light to you. I should have ventured to have given you some account of this before now had I not been discouraged in my first addresses to you from Holyhead. However I cannot refrain from giving you this hint that you may at least make some enquiry concerning the state of this poor country, in hopes it will not be quite given up and abandoned to such as do not know or have a mind to break into our constitution and the remains of liberty left us. I assure you that notwithstanding my obligations to my Lord Godolphin I would use my utmost endeavours to promote her Majesty's interests under any Ministry she might choose; and much more under your Lordship's, whom I have so long known, and whose principles if I be mistaken in, 'tis time for all honest men to give up the game.

[DANIEL DE FOE* to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, September 3—Seeing your Lordship was pleased to approve my going north I thought it my duty to lay before you some thoughts of mine relating to affairs there as they occur from my constant advices from persons of probity and judgment on the place as well as from my own observation.

The erecting a form of government among them as an equivalent for the loss of the Privy Council (the dissolving of which was no token of the skill of our late managers) is doubtless a thought calculated for the health of that place, the choice of persons and the conduct of those persons when chosen seems to be now the only nicety in the case.

There are three parties in Scotland which you will observe influence affairs and who will come under your consideration:—

1. The Jacobite Party, whether popish or episcopal it matters little. These fancy they have now a crisis to push their interest in, that the juncture is favourable to them, and that the Government at least has some need of them. They act now bare-faced, furious and insolent, even to the amazement of the honest people

* Signature torn off.

who are terrified and discouraged at the insolence of the Jacobites. These, I presume, are to be a little checked or else the Government itself will be insulted.

2. The hot Presbyterians called the Squadroni. These are by a kind of principle always against the Court, right or wrong. They were so in King William's time, and were so in the last Ministry and are so still, and are indeed worthy to be laid aside by every party that purpose to keep the Government in bounds.
3. There are a third kind which indeed are the generality of the people who though they are Presbyterian yet go upon right principles of government, are entirely in the present interest, hearty to the Queen and easy under her administration, only jealous of the great favour the Jacobite party meet with, lest sometime or other they get the power into their hand in Scotland to pull down the Kirk.

It is observable the Squadroni never had any ruling interest with these, nor indeed are many of the nobility with them who are rather divided between the Jacobites and the Squadroni. But the ministers are generally of these and by the ministers they are kept right. These are the people who indeed are the stay of her Majesty's interest in Scotland, the little interest the Squadroni have with them appeared in the great struggle at the last election but one, when these stuck all to the Court Whigs against the other and threw them out everywhere.

These are the people which I humbly move it is her Majesty's interest to preserve to keep them easy and safe, for these may be depended upon in all extremities whether of invasion from abroad or parties at home; they will always appear on her Majesty's part against all sides. These are the people I always acted by, these made the Union, and these keep the balance in their hands, so as you will never find any hot measures or furious motions while they are encouraged. If I go thither I shall give your Lordship a view of who among the nobility are well with these people, and who not, that in the scheme your Lordship is laying, such regard may be had to these people as may consist with her Majesty's service, and that all such steps may, if possible, be avoided as may tend to make these jealous or uneasy.

The nobility of Scotland are an odd kind of people, to say no more of them. There are some of them may deserve favour who should hardly be admitted to any power, others (which is very strange) it may be requisite to entrust with power who yet hardly merit the Government's favour, and others yet merit to be entirely neglected and are neither proper for favour or power, and most of this variety arises from the posture these people stand in with respect to the Kirk, which I explain to you thus:—

Some of the nobility are men of worth, honour, and principle and as such merit her Majesty's favour. But to put them in power would put all in confusion, as they are only episcopal in judgment, and cannot bear with the establishment, which is Presbyterian, so that neither would they be easy to the Presbyterians, nor the Presbyterians be easy under them. Some of the nobility, however worthless in themselves and hardly worth any of her Majesty's favour, yet as they are in the interest of the well inclined people above-named and of principles

conforming to the public service and withal have some considerable interest in, and influence upon, the best people, are the best objects for the trust of power. Some of the nobility again for many and known reasons are dangerous to her Majesty and the administration, and are neither qualified for favour or power but to be continually forming squadrons of malcontents and disquieting the Government.

If it may be for your service I shall give you lists of names to these classes and the just characters of the persons. However thus much I thought it my duty to represent to your Lordship while your scheme for Government may be young, and in embryo, and while perhaps the persons are not fixed upon in your thoughts.

P.S.—I shall attend Wednesday evening, according to your Lordship's command.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford.—"Mr. Goldsmith."

G. Granville to [the Earl of Oxford]

1711, September 4. Windsor—Asking that a provision might be made for Mr. Henry Proctor of Clewer who had married a daughter of Dr. Doughty, the Queen's preceptor.

H[enry] St. J[ohn] to the Lord Treasurer.

1711, September 4. Windsor—Having acquainted the Queen that Mr. Mackenzie writes me word that the Count de Phluz had spoken in confidence to him concerning the attempts to pervert the Electoral Prince of Saxony, and had said that he hoped the Queen would show herself able to support the Protestant interest, and to protect the young Prince in his declining to turn Roman Catholic, and having put her Majesty in mind that some time ago not only Millintz, who was the Prince's Governor till the Cardinal of Saxzeits placed a Papist about him, had spoken very plainly to Mackenzie upon the same subject, but also that the young man himself had shewn an inclination to enter on the same discourse with him, had he not, very unartfully in my opinion, avoided it. The Queen is in great doubt with herself what to do upon this occasion, and directs me to let your Lordship know that she would be glad you would turn your thoughts upon it, and let her have your opinion. The young Prince is now at Frankfort, and I dare say Millintz will find ways of talking to Lord Peterborough, he being a zealous Protestant, and Mackenzie by what I find having given him encouragement so to do.

There is still a report as if King Augustus designed his son should travel into Holland, and after that into Britain, and Mr. Scott seems to think if he fails in war in Pomerania, and in intrigue at Frankfort, that this journey may take effect.

John Drummond intended to leave Amsterdam this week, so that he will soon be here. Heinsius and Buys both told him their accounts from the army assured them that Torcy was in England. They both desired the Duke of Marlborough might not be in the secret of the peace, and Buys reflected with warmth on the treatment which he had received from his Grace and from Lord Townshend when the last negociation was on foot.

I have a very sober letter from our friend, Lord Peterborough; he begins to find out that nothing but a peace can deliver us from the present perplexed state, and from the worse prospect of affairs.

DR. R[OBERT] FREIND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, September 4—I am extremely sensible of the honour done me by your letter, and of the kind assurances of your favour. I was induced to take the school by a prospect of enjoying a prebend of Westminster with it, as there are some peculiar advantages in the latter which make it more desirable to a master of Westminster school than to any other man in England.

[COLONEL JAMES GRAHAM to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, September 4. Levens—I deferred congratulating your Lordship till the flood of daubers, or the usual ceremonies paid on such occasions to great men, made the way into the ark more easy. As I told your son I say to you, I have been long enough out of a Court to forget to flatter; believe me, this many years I have heard nothing has given me so great content. Go on and prosper. I think you can fail in nothing you project, and from my heart I wish you may not. Yet many things to be done, but one especially for a Minister. An apothegm of old Bacon's, whilst things are at a doubtful stand, we must weigh them; when they incline we may fall a work. He teaches danger to come on who ever early addresses himself against danger or fixes it by application of a remedy. The old Chancellor saith farther, those things which are seasonably undertaken are performed with judgment, *but what are put off too long* are compassed with trouble and difficulties.

WILLIAM PULTENEY, M.P. for Hedon, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, September 4. Earls Court—I am not conscious of any action of mine that might deserve your Lordship's displeasure; yet I fear I must somehow ignorantly have incurred it. Otherwise you would have been so kind as to have procured me what I desired for my brother, which you were pleased to say he justly deserved. I do purpose ever to be a most faithful humble servant to your Lordship to the utmost of my poor ability, both as it was always my own inclination to be and as it was Mr. Guy's commands to me.

JOHN DRUMMOND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].*

1171, September [4-]15, N.S. Amsterdam—I hoped to have had the honour of waiting on your Lordship by this packet, or the next at farthest (but) the Pensionary Heynsius will not consent that (I leave?) this side till either my Lord Strafford be (come from?) yours, or that I receive some further information from Mr. Secretary St. John for him, for he is.....of his life by the States and especially those in the Secret Commission, for an account of what is doing on your side, and thinks it very hard treatment to be kept so long in the dark, as I have wrote very amply to Mr. Secretary St. John by this post, to which I crave leave to refer your Lordship.

I have at the same time to acquaint you that on Friday last M. Buys being unanimously nominated by the States of this province (and doubts not to have it confirmed by the States General) as Envoy Extraordinary to her Majesty till the province of Zeland choose an ordinary, he

* This letter is much decayed in parts.

hopes to be able to set out with the boat of Saturday come seven nights. I told him.....two yachts come, he said he designed..... (neither) figure nor expense, to have only.....(serv)ants nor equipage, to have private lodgings as near the Court as possible, being to stay only a few weeks, and the States allowances are not proportioned for figure and expense, and he having a family of nine children, and more like to come, frugality is necessary. I believe there is no more honest and incorruptible man, but the more expense your Lordship may think fit to save him of, the more he will be obliged. I only wait the arrival of one mail from England to set out for the packet boat, and as my good friend M. Buys is now all honey and extremely kind, saying he depends upon my assistance and friendship, I may have the favour of providing several affairs for him, and my humble opinion is that your Lordship may be pleased to make him very welcome on that side and that some one may meet him at Har(wich) in your Lordship's name that his small baggage may meet with no disturbance and his journey made as easy as possible, but of this I hope to be early enough to wait on your Lordship to inform you how he proceeds. At parting yesterday at the Hague where I promised to have the honour of waiting on the Grand Pensionary and him again on the arrival of letters from England he embraced me, and said with a good deal of earnestness, my good friend, I hope my Lord Treasurer will give us a speedy peace, and I doubt not his Lordship and I will agree in every respect, that both our Sovereigns may think and acknowledge that we have done them good service. I took the freedom to assure him of the respect and friendship your Lordship had always been pleased to profess for him, and that he might depend upon being made as easy in England as your Lordship can make him.

The Grand Pensionary expects my Lord Albemarle soon at the Hague, for notwithstanding your Lordship going so heartily into the Duke of Marlborough's proposals, by Lord Stair, and that you have not left them one word to object against you by your concurring so entirely with his Grace's projects, the Council of States who manage all the war affairs at the Hague cannot be brought into the expense of the Dutch share, neither can the Pensionary Heynsius sufficiently prevail with them, for which reason, the Duke of Marlborough knowing Lord Albemarle's interest at the Hague is begging him to come there to bring the Council of States to consent to what is required, and it is very like that his Lordship may be desired to relieve M. Buys at your Court. I find the Duke is grown a little jealous of my Lord Albemarle and some other.....for inviting Prince Eugene back to (share his ?) glory, without his knowledge.

The Grand Pensionary was in great expectation of my Lord Strafford or some particulars from him by the last post, but all he received was three lines which he was pleased to let me read, saying, "what satisfaction can I give my principals out of such a letter, I hope my Lord Oxford will honour me with a few lines, or that you will have something from Mr. Secretary St. John to tell me, for in all my life I was never made more uneasy." I begged of him to believe there was nothing done or it would have been advised him. My Lord Strafford's letter was:—

"Sir, you are too well informed of what is doing here to wonder at my long absence. Lest my stay should be eight or ten days longer I write you this to assure you that you have a sincere.....and humble servant here, &c."

I hope my Lord the first mail (from England will?) make all easy, and the day after (its) arrival, I shall go aboard the packet. My Lord Marlborough as I am informed has heard that no less a man..... was with you and he expects my Lord.....with a full account of all, the French (have burned?) the forage wherever they can, yet it is (unlikely they will?) be able to carry Maubeuge ere (the war?) be at an end, Bouchain having.....garrison prisoners of war, the .....before the winter, the easier the.....resolve to a treaty. Private letters from.....that Mr. Hill is master of Quebec.....and consequently her Majesty..... America. I don't expect the honour (of a letter from?) your Lordship on this side but M. (Buys will?) be impatient for a few lines.

GENERAL J[OHN RICHMOND] WEBB to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1711, September 5. Bath—If your Lordship will be pleased to consider my services and sufferings and how ill they been rewarded by the late Ministry, I hope you will be of opinion they ought to meet with better treatment in this.

What I desire of your Lordship is, that my pension may be continued to me; you were pleased to bid me depend on you, which I entirely do. This place is very expensive, therefore I humbly beg you to direct the payment of half a year due Lady Day last.

DR. GEORGE SMALRIDGE to [LORD HARLEY].

1711, September 5. Hampton Hall—Dwelling at some length on the preferments the Queen had been pleased to bestow upon him, and his gratitude to the Lord Treasurer; and desires that the latter will introduce him to her Majesty the next Sunday, when he will be at Windsor.

The DUKE OF LEEDS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, September 6. Wimbledon—Has heard from the Duke of Beaufort that the Queen intends him to be Justice in Eyre, North of the Trent, and Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding; but as the garrison of Hull is not mentioned, the Queen perhaps thinks of separating those two commands, which was never done before and would be looked upon by all his countrymen as a particular act of unkindness which he is sure her Majesty did not mean. He will therefore decline the Lieutenancy to whomever will be entrusted with Hull, some one he hopes who will take care to send better members to Parliament than their present representatives.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, September 7—It is with concern that I give your Lordship frequent trouble of letters on the affair of Scotland; my last was long and I hope acceptable to you. I had not given you this farther trouble but on receiving advices from thence of a grant which it seems is come down thither, and passed the Seals—one letter says, stopped at the Seals—to take away the privilege of printing the Bible from the present possessor Mr. Anderson, and give it to others.

I formerly hinted much of this by letter to you. I did not say more lest you should think me soliciting private interests and cases; but I hope you will believe me to regard as well as to know my duty better; my study and the reason of my pleading with your Lordship in these or such cases is, to remove or prevent as much as possible all grounds of jealousy, discontent, and uneasiness from those people who are true friends to the Government, and to your Lordship's administration; and which I take it to be good service to both to keep right; and this the more by how much the friends of the Pretender go on with too much success to divide, disturb, and intimidate them, rendering them jealous and fearful of design to overthrow their Kirk and constitution.

In this case they are made very uneasy, and I have a long representation or address to her Majesty from the Printers against this grant to be presented to her Majesty. The copy is in my hands, the original is to be brought me and which I shall lay before you also.

The uneasiness of the other people is expressed or rather abridged into two heads:—

1. They say the printing of the Bible is put into the hands of one Papist, one nonjuror, and a whole society of men declared enemies to the Church of Scotland and to the Revolution.
2. That the grant is illegal in its nature, inconsistent with the Union, invades private right and the known liberty of the subject. These being Heads on which loud clamours may be raised I thought it my duty to lay before your Lordship, not presuming to say anything of my own thoughts one way or other, but humbly to recommend to you as I have done all along the occasion there is to keep those honest weak people as easy as possible by such methods as you shall think proper.

I have pursuant to your commands put myself in a posture for travelling into Scotland; if you please to suffer me to go while the weather and roads are tolerable, it will be a great favour, the year declining apace.

I have one humble request to subjoin to this relating to my attending your Lordship in the morning as by your appointment for to-morrow. It is my honour and a privilege no man values more that you admit me to wait on you at any time, and if you command my attendance in public I shall thankfully obey. But as my being able to serve your Lordship's and her Majesty's interest consists much on my being concealed, I humbly submit it to you whether I should not rather attend in an evening. I say no more leaving the rest entirely to your wisdom and direction, only begging leave to attend this evening rather than to-morrow morning till I have your farther commands.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford.—" Mr. Goldsmith."

The Duke of Leeds to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, September 7. Wimbledon—I would not have troubled your Lordship so soon again, but that last night I saw in the Gazette that the Duke of Buckingham was made Custos Rotulorum of the East Riding of Yorkshire, which I take myself to be at this time, unless my Commission for it from King William be superseded, because I always took it to be the only employment from which I was not removed, and although I do not value it of sixpence, it will be looked upon as a

public affront to me, which I therefore believe the Queen does not know, and especially since she had thoughts of making me Lord Lieutenant of that Riding, but if her Majesty do know it and that it is by her appointment, I would not have one word said of it, but it shall be put in the Roll of my submission to her pleasure, and I will take a time to show your Lordship such a Roll thereof as you would not expect to see.

GURDON SALTONSTALL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, September 10. New Haven [Connecticut]—The present expedition which her Majesty has appointed for the reduction of Canada is known to be so much favoured by your Lordship that I presume to give you an account of the progress made in it here, and more especially on the land part under Col. Francis Nicholson, on which side this her Majesty's colony of Connecticut (where at present I have the honour to command) was to perform their part. Soon after the arrival of Col. Nicholson, the governors of Massachusetts Province and New Hampshire, New York and the Jerseys, and of Rhode Island, met him in a council of war, at New London, in this colony; where the quotas of the several governments that were to act under his command, and enter Canada, by the way of the Woodcreek, over the Lake Champlain, and other necessary measures conducing to that service, were agreed upon.

In that council the quota of this colony was determined to be 360 men. Which, with the unanimous consent of the General Assembly whom I had for that end and at the same time convened at New London, I immediately provided, and, as was agreed in the Council, marched them to Col. Nicholson at Albany, in the Province of New York, that being the nearest frontier place to Montreal in Canada, There I met his Excellency Colonel Hunter, with the troops of the Provinces of New York and New Jersey.

In a few days after I got thither, the five nations of Indians, known by the general name of the Iroquois, came in a very considerable body to Albany, and with a great deal of cheerfulness offered themselves to her Majesty's service, under the command of the Lieutenant-General, who, together with his Excellency Colonel Hunter, did with incessant application hasten the march of the troops to Woodcreek.

I took leave of Colonel Nicholson at Albany on the 29th of the last month; all the Christian troops, and some of the Indians, being on their march from thence some days before. He himself with the last of the Indians designed to follow the next day. Upon my return to this Colony I met with the good news of his Excellency General Hill and Admiral Walker being got with the fleet under his command, into the river of St. Lawrence, and standing up that river on the 13th of the same month with a fair wind for Quebec.

I am glad I can acquaint your Lordship that every thing looks with a fair prospect of good success to her Majesty's arms in this expedition; and I hope you will in a short time have the satisfaction of seeing the country of Canada, with all the French encroachments in North America, reduced to her Majesty's dominions, as the happy issue of those counsels which have favoured this design, and in pursuance of which, it has hitherto been so prosperous.

H. St. J[ohn] to the Lord Treasurer.

[1171, September 11.] Tuesday morning—I return your Lordship the letters you was pleased to put into my hands at Windsor. Methinks the natural answer is that the Queen thinks the Elector's request reasonable, that she has signified her pleasure accordingly to the Duke of Marlborough, and that she leaves it to his Electoral Highness to concert the manner of doing the thing with the greatest secrecy.

I should be glad to know your Lordship's resolution in this matter because I ought to return an answer to Monsieur Bothmer.

The Same to the Same.

[Same date.] Tuesday evening—I send you the papers which I received to-night from Marlborough and Cadogan, and am with truth and respect ever yours.

Postscript.—I have sent to the Tower to fire the guns. I suppose they will not say again that this was done to ridicule them.

E. Lady Orkney to [the Countess of Oxford?].

[1711,] September 14. Bath—I am never surprised at any obliging thing you do, Madam, for where the inclination is so tender, the effect will ever show it. Since I have been in this horrid place I have had not anything happen agreeable to me, but receiving your Ladyship's letter which upon my word I take as an obligation, for I know time does not lay upon your hands, it does very much upon mine here, no conversation, nothing played at but dice, which I have declared my head won't bear the noise of; a ball twice a week which I saw the beginning of this night and am come home to rest. I went because 'tis a crime here, not to appear in public, but of this I will rather bear the censure than the inconvenience of heat any more. I need not tell you how mortified I am at being here in a place made up of nobody but Lady Paulett. I did not think there could be a town in the world without one reasonable creature in it.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1711, September 15—In obedience to your Lordship's command I have applied my thoughts seriously to the affair of a Commander-in-Chief in Scotland. Your proposition is, what person may be thought of who may be easy to the Kirk, or rather, who the Kirk party may be easy with, who is untainted with Jacobitism. It is not for me to give characters here, the question principally lies on the character the Kirk gives of the person, or how the person stands with the Kirk, &c.

I have rummaged the whole list of the nobility for a man, and it is hard to find them. But, either they are tainted with Jacobitism or embarked with the Squadroni, or incapable and improper for the employ, and therefore before I mention particular men, I ask your leave to make two proposals for your consideration as an alternative.

1. That a person may have the title of the employ, who is, or is likely to be, always abroad, and may be especially kept abroad; and the Queen appoint a person under him to command. This I humbly offer for two reasons:—

1. Because appointing either the Earl of Orkney or some such experienced officer to be Commander, the strife of competitors would cease; and
2. Then her Majesty may give the sub-command to Lieut.-General Maitland, a man acceptable to all parties, a hearty friend to the present Establishment, both Government and Ministry; no bigot, yet perfectly well with the Kirk, and whom none would object against, nor the oldest soldier in the army think it below him to serve under him.

Or, if without the ceremony of a Commander-in-Chief abroad he had the whole trust, I am persuaded not a man in Scotland would be uneasy, though he be not a nobleman.

2. My second proposal is, to have no Commander-in-Chief at all—any more than a third Secretary, or a Privy Council, or a Commander-in-Chief for Yorkshire, but to let the eldest officer command, taking it as it happens, and the custom and usage of the army directs.

I am not now giving my reasons, but barely proposing to your consideration, only I crave leave to offer this, as what I aim at all along in everything I propose, viz., the taking away everything that keeps up a faction or a strife of parties among them. This is what I have my eye upon in both these. I refer my explanations till you shall have perused the general proposal.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Mr. Goldsmith, Scotland."

[Lady Orkney to the Earl of Oxford.]

1711, September 15. Bath—I hear Monsieur Van Huls is expected from Holland which is the reason I give you this trouble, as I was the occasion of his having nothing given him before he went by advising the contrary, so now I must say that I believe it will be very wise to make him a present with a good grace upon his return, for though he is not a man that loves money every body likes favours when 'tis a sort of due. I am sure by a letter I have had since I came here that he is better than ever he was with the Pensionary, and upon my word I have no other end by this letter than your services; for I know him to be a very grateful man, and gratitude leads generous minds to unexpected services. I am told the Duke of Marlborough has thoughts of staying in Flanders all winter, can that be true? I know 'tis reasonable I should be here and yet I have not philosophy enough to bear this place.

The Earl of Manchester to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, September 15. Leen ?—I fear that nothing has been ordered in my affair notwithstanding all the assurances I have had. I am sensible there are many demands on the Treasury, but considering what I have expended in public employments much to the prejudice of my family, I hope that will have its weight. When this pension was allowed me till better could be done for me, I was told it was placed

on the secret service as the surest and readiest of being paid. Would you be pleased to order for secret service 500*l.* a week, till the 2,000*l.* is paid; if that may not be so convenient as any other way I must submit.

HENRY WATKINS to [JOHN DRUMMOND].

1711, September [17-]28, N.S. Bouchain—Lord Albemarle writes from the Hague that he sees no hope of doing any good where he is and that he intends to be coming away the middle of this week, which is such a mortifying piece of news to my Lord Duke that 'tis a perfect distemper to him, and he is actually sick of it. None of his correspondents at the Hague have yet thought fit to give him notice of their having advice of what is doing in England, by which it is evident that he is not treated very cordially there, which is one reason why I, who am an humble servant of his, rejoice at the friendship he meets with at home.

THOMAS, LORD PELHAM, to THOMAS HEWET, Esquire, at Shire-oaks, near Warsop, Notts.

1711, September 17. Haland—We hear my Lady Duchess [of Newcastle] lays claim to all my Lord Duke's estate, and that several tenants even in Clare Market have "atturned" to her. We are therefore advised to send to all the receivers of such estates as by my Lord Duke's will belong to my son, and to the tenants, not to pay any money to any order from her Grace. We beg the favour of you to inform the bearer where to find the said receivers in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire that they may have notice before any money becomes due to him.

The DUKE OF LEEDS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, September 21. Wimbledon—Begs leave to decline the lieutenancy of the East Riding as he learns that it is the Queen's intention to gratify officers who have served abroad with the commands of garrisons in England, and that in consequence the government of Hull cannot be given to him with the lieutenancy, but proposes that Lord Burlington, who besides his being a minor hath his chief country seat in the East Riding, shall have that lieutenancy, and that he himself, whose habitation is in the West Riding, shall have the lieutenancy of the latter in Lord Burlington's place, or of Nottinghamshire, where the Duke also has an estate.

The EARL OF STAIR to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, [September 25-]October 5, N.S. Avesnes le Sec—I did not fail as soon as I arrived to relate faithfully to the Duke of Marlborough the several particulars your Lordship had given me in charge to him. I reckoned my Lord Marlborough's letters to you would be so very good accounts that anything I had to say might very well be spared. I continue to be of opinion that you two great men may strengthen one another's hands so as to save your country, but when you have both set your hearts upon it—I am persuaded you have both done so—you'll

find it a very hard task. I wish your good success with all my heart. I shall think myself happy enough in my share in the public good fortune, without proposing or pretending any other advantage to myself.

The difficulties the project for winter quarters and magazines meets on this side threaten to blast our hopes from the taking of Bouchain. The drawing back of our troops promises France a new hazard for keeping the Allies out in the spring, and secures all their country of quiet to recruit their troops and fill their magazines in the winter; but I hope the States will yet avoid making so wrong a step since they have begun to see the dangers and inconveniences of it.

The Duke of Leeds to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, September 28. Wimbledon—The *Cleveland* yacht is now waiting to bring my grandson over from Holland, and the under officers of the Customs being very troublesome and rude in their searches, I desire you would please to give an order that no search be made on board the yacht, but that, if it be suspected that they bring any contraband goods an officer may be sent with the goods to Lindsey House, which is near the river and that they open anything they have a mind to, there.

John Urry to Lord Harley at the Lord Treasurer's, Westminster.

1711, September 28. Christ Church, Oxford—In obedience to your commands this comes to let you know that yesterday Dr. Francis Atterbury was installed Dean of Christ Church by Mr. Sub-Dean Dr. Burton, and immediately after, the Dean installed Dr. Smalridge, who came down on Wednesday night.

After the installation the Dean gave a splendid entertainment to the heads of houses and all the nobility in town. It was much the biggest I have seen in this House, and with great decency it was managed. As he came upstairs Dr. Peter Foulks' brother made him the usual compliments of welcome at the top of the stairs, he was harangued by Sir Ward the Bachelor, who is to get his degree of Master of Arts for his good speech, and at the fireplace in the hall the Rhetoric reader Dr. Frewin entertained him with a very excellent speech; to which the Dean gave an answer much to the liking of every body. On Tuesday he came into town and was met on Shotover Hill by some say 400 others 500 horse, and all the coaches that belong to this town. 'Twas the greatest appearance that has been known. When he passed by Tangeir, he was saluted with repeated huzzahs; from thence the horse leading the way, he was conducted to the Deanery and as he entered the great gate he was welcomed again with huzzahs and all possible demonstrations of joy, so that I verily believe he and all of us are mighty well pleased.

Thomas Sclater to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, September 28. Grays Inn—Since I had the honour to kiss your hand, I have waited on Mr. Annesley and Dr. Moss, by whom I find the former will stand this election, in order to keep the Church party united in hopes that they will before another election agree unanimously upon a proper person, which I think will be my advantage,

for besides gaining more time my particular friend Dr. Floyd, Master of Trinity Hall, will be then Vice Chancellor. At present the candidates are Mr. Miller, a Whig of no interest but with some few fellows of his own College by opposing their Master Dr. Bentley; Mr. Shaw, lately of St. John's College, has no considerable interest but in his own College; Mr. Gill has no interest but in his own small College of Jesus; Dr. Pask is the favourite of the Church party by his great acquaintance as agent to Mr. Annesley and Mr. Windsor. I can't pretend (by reason of my long absence from the University) to balance his interest with that party, but I having several heads of the Colleges whereof Trinity is one with most of the Fellows of that and several other Colleges; if I had a letter from Dr. Gastrel to Dr. Laney, Master of Pembroke, one from the Dean of Canterbury to Dr. Roderick, Provost of King's, and one from you to Dr. Gower, I should not doubt with the help of the Whigs (from whom I have all the assurances possible) to out-vote Pask, but it will not be safe to take that method with the Whigs, lest we break the Church party. How much more easy is it for Mr. Annesley to prevail with Pask to desist, and the Church party to unite with me, to whom they make no objection but their entire resignation to Mr. Annesley.

[Charlwood Lawton to the Earl of Oxford.]

1711, September 30—I know not what you are doing. Two of our news-letters talk much of peace. The other of whom you said care would be taken continues a malicious libel. Peace is so much the inclination here that two persons, who expressed a dislike to it, are so scouted that they pretend to wish it, but now and then insinuate difficulties, and, wherever they vent their thoughts, they are contradicted vigorously.

If I was a minister, I would despise all the artifices of the modern Whigs on this head, and I would retrieve the prerogative in relation to peace and war. The votes of the Lords and Commons, if there was occasion, should not stand in my way. Both Houses will give thanks and those thanks will be seconded with an universal acclamation.

Though I write with this mettle, I remain extremely indisposed. My disorder is too hard for the medicines which are prescribed me. But I thank God I am not afraid of death, having for above thirty years last past placed religion in doing good to mankind, and not at all doubting, however some party people may think of my religion, that whensoever I die, the great Framer of all beings will reveal to me why He gave me so large an appetite, and so little a theatre, for doing good. If I had power, I would do good to all our several parties, and overlook and pass by their follies with the same temper that you do.

Francis Hoffman to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1711, September]—At the same time that the outed family are applauded above measure, and bloated on the success at Bouchain, I find they double their malice against your Lordship, and spare no cost to encourage pamphlets against the ministry. 'Tis a notion in the pamphlet shops that Whiggish libels sell best, so industrious are they to propagate scandal and falsehood. The taking of Bouchain now animates them afresh, 'tis a mighty glorious thing for them to

be as long in taking a little town as our ancestors have been in reducing all France, but why is Dunkirk spared all this time? either for treacherous reasons, or out of remorse of conscience lest the ghost of the Governor should haunt somebody before the walls, as the ghost of Julius Cæsar did Brutus before the battle of Brundusium. If I can demonstrate before the Cabinet, that Dunkirk may be taken before our army quits the field, with less charge than the separating of it will amount to, and that all things concur at this very moment to conquer it, and that it may be done at the same time a treaty of peace is carrying on, if any, there is no reason to have it razed for 'tis ours by right. If I demonstrate this, the reason why it has not been attacked is either through remorse or treachery, for the notion of its being impregnable is ridiculous. Those that betrayed the Governor not only are murderers of one who put himself under our King's protection, but are robbers of their country, to the value of all that we have lost by the Dunkirk shipping since, which may be modestly added to the nine millions they have run us in debt, and so double their account and crimes. If I have time I shall speak more home on this subject.

The Earl of Orkney to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, October [1-]12, N.S. Camp, Avesnes-le-Sec—I had the honour to receive your Lordship's most kind and obliging letter by Sir James Abercromby who came to camp yesterday; I will endeavour every manner of way to merit your favour and protection. Though I have not done myself the honour to trouble you with my letters this campaign, yet I hope you have heard another way, and with less trouble, anything that was worth relating. Our campaign draws nigh an end, and it has been, as I am told (for I am in no secret), with great difficulty that my Lord Duke of Marlborough has obtained of the States to let the camp remain in the same situation, for now that forage is delivered by the country, and that we have some leagues to transport it, the horse are fallen away to a very great degree, and I really believe there will be a very great loss. We are told it is worse with the enemy. There is some glory who can stay longest, and that we are very ambitious of, as well as adroit to draw everybody into their sentiment. The news of what is transacting about peace in England is in everybody's mouth, and I am persuaded is heartily wished to succeed by most of the army of all nations, though I am convinced by some it is very much otherwise. I wish with all my heart your Lordship may succeed in all your endeavours, which I do not doubt will prove to be the good of the nation, and to your own eternal honour.

Mrs. Dela Manley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, October 2—I presume once more to put your Lordship in mind of my misfortunes, in hopes Mr. St. John has spoken for me as he had the goodness to promise. My infirmities keep me in town, an expense I can ill bear, but if I go to a cheaper place, I lose the benefit of my physicians, who only keep me alive by art.

In those intervals I get from sickness, I have endeavoured to make myself a little serviceable; had I either instructions or encouragement I might succeed better. I beg you to know that I wrote Monsieur De Guiscard's Narrative, and that "Examiner" of Anthony and

Fulvia, where by Agrippa's character your Lordship's was designed. I also answered Dr. Hare's pamphlet of Bouchain, and have here sent you the enclosed upon his sermon which will be published to-morrow.

I am told by many that your Lordship will have the goodness to consider my misfortunes, but had never so much hopes as since the gracious Secretary promised to intercede for me. If you design me any favour, I may receive your commands in a note without a name directed to me and enclosed to Mr. Markham, apothecary in Paternoster Row.

LORD BALMERINO to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, October 2. Edinburgh—I know not if it be true, but people are very positive in it that Lord Fountainhall is resolved to dimit his place in the Session; he exclaims against selling or dimitting in anybody's favour. If this hold there will never want abundance of competitors. I am most afraid of the man who least deserves it, Pencaitland. I know the Duke of Hamilton's endless importunities; I do therefore entreat you to take care of my son James's interest in this matter. There is nobody that I trouble on this head but your Lordship and my Lord Dupplin who very frankly has promised all that I could deserve of him. If the Queen had once promised my son the next vacancy, she would be at ease and free from Duke Hamilton's importunity for a man who should be refused not only now but in all time coming. This being a head Court day I sat for the first time in the Sheriff Court. We had no business of any moment, but when the Court was dismissed, Lord Arniston, Sir James Dalrymple, and several other gentlemen stayed, and we signed an Address to the Queen for effectual executing of the law against importation of Irish victual, a thing against express law and against an Article of the Union, and a great prejudice to Scotland in general; but some parts of the West it seems find their account in it and by their connivance it comes in. The stopping of it will be both just and popular; I hope your Lordship will take notice of it.

[The EARL OF STAIR to the EARL OF MAR.]

1711, October [2-]13 N.S. Camp at Avesnes le Sec—I have been likely to visit the dark region of oblivion by making a little too bold with myself one poor time, but I have 'scaped and I am now pretty well to receive any commands you may have for me on this side. In the meantime I must recommend Charles Cathcart to your protection. Sir John Johnston, Colonel Ker's Lieutenant Colonel, is dead, most of our Generals here think Cathcart is a very fit man to succeed him. My Lord Marlborough himself thinks he is such an officer as that regiment wants to make it a good one. I see nothing to hinder Cathcart's advancement but recommendations from your side in favour of Lord Wandall. I am willing to take him into my regiment as Major to make everything easy which I think should be agreeable to him and to his friends. Cathcart's service and merit and fitness plead for me, as does the good of the service which requires an officer of experience to put that regiment into a good way. Lord Wandall is a young gentleman who has just bought and will have occasion to improve himself in my regiment, and to make himself fit for the advancement his friends may procure for him afterwards; and in the meantime it will be agreeable to everybody in the service to see a young man of

quality who has taken pains to recommend himself by his merit and his capacity preferred. I must beg your good offices with my Lord Treasurer in Cathcart's favour, you know him, upon my word his merit makes me more anxious for him than our relation.

We are now in way to receive forage delivered to us from the country which will keep us to the end of the month. If Monsieur de Villars "opinatres" staying as long, a very little forage will be necessary to subsist his cavalry this winter, their horses die already most plentifully. Our disposition for our winter quarters is already made. I think it is impossible for the French to make magazines to come into the field as soon as we; so that if they don't think fit to prevent us by a good peace this winter they'll find themselves very hard pressed in the next spring. But I hope we shall have occasion to meet often this winter where we shall have nothing to do with either peace or war.

GEORGE GRANVILLE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, October 6—Reminds him of what had been said about Granville's brother succeeding Brigadier Sutton as Lieutenant-Governor of Hull, thus providing for him in the profession in which he was bred and has served above twenty years in Flanders, the West Indies, all the last war and the present one.

Encloses a memorandum of a few alterations in the Stannaries. The persons to be turned out are menial servants to the Godolphin and Boscawen families who have behaved themselves with such insolence, especially at the late elections of mayors in our corporations, that it is become of absolute necessity for the peace and quiet of the country to give them this check. The gentlemen recommended to be put in are all of the best families in the county, of good credit and interest.

The EARL OF KINNOULL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, October 9. Edinburgh—This is to thank your Lordship for your letter which I received at Newcastle. Nothing could be more acceptable to me than to hear that the Queen was pleased to think well of the small endeavours I have used to serve her Majesty's interest. It always was my principle, and always shall be my practice, to the utmost of my power to support the authority of the Government and serve her Majesty's interest, and nothing can delight me so much as to find that her Majesty thinks so. The welcome news of the great affair of the peace, its being now settled, will contribute a great deal to quiet the minds of people here and excuse the long delays that have been in the affairs of Scotland. However I hope you will not entirely trust to that, but will as soon as possible send down those commissions, that those who have heartily served the Queen may be encouraged to continue hearty in her service, and go up early against the sitting down of the Parliament. The more I think of that affair of the Duke of Montrose the more I am confirmed in my opinion that it will be impossible to satisfy people here, if he be continued Privy Seal. It would have so very many bad consequences, and they are so very obvious, that I need say nothing more of them to your Lordship. We had a very good journey, fine weather and good way, came here upon Friday last, where I found nobody except Lord Balmerino who is an honest man and always pleased, and the old Advocate, Sir James Stewart, who is full of his acknowledgments to the Queen and your

Lordship for restoring him to his old place. His head is as good and memory as fresh as ever. I am told my Lord Annandale is a little out of humour that matters are delayed so long; I have not seen him, for he was gone to Annandale before I came. Your Lordship knows there are three things any one of them will coop his distemper. I am told he says either the Castle or Register will do, but he does not like the Privy Seal so well. Everybody is gone to the country and the circuits, and I, having heard nothing by yesternight post, go home to-morrow, that I may be ready to return when you please and think I can be of any use.

Captain Charles Cornwall to the Lord Treasurer.

1711, October 10. The *Burford* in the Downs—I think it my duty to acquaint you of my safe return yesterday to the Downs with the trade from Turkey, which is the richest that ever at any one time came from that country.

I parted from your brother [Nathaniel] at Scanderoon the 23rd of April last. He came down from Aleppo to see me. I shall ever retain a grateful sense of his favours to me during my stay in Turkey, and should greatly rejoice to hear that you had sent for him home to a good employment, which none can be fitter for, being blessed with a most admirable understanding, a happiness peculiar to your family. He has sent your Lordship by me two Arabian horses, some old Cyprus wine, and other things; the horses have been long on board and therefore I am advised to put them ashore here, but as I have no groom of my own I must pray you to send down yours to look after them.

A hardship has been done me during my service abroad in having a younger officer made a flag before me. I have served almost thirty years, above twenty of them in command, and was never charged with neglect of duty. I hope you will take me into your protection; I might urge the honour you have done me heretofore in owning me as a poor relation, but I shall desire that no other thing but my services may determine you on my behalf.

A. Carleton to ———

1711, October 10. Tunbridge Wells—I have been here since the 14th of last month and design to stay till the 20th or 23rd instant; for the waters have done me already so much good that I hope to escape a relapse this winter. The week before I came to this place, I had taken two places in the Bath coach, but not getting money so soon as I expected (and when I did it was much short of what I hoped to get) I lost my own earnest but happened on a Lady to supply my wife's place, with which I am well-pleased, for these waters agree so well with me, that if I had money, and were easy in circumstances (but it is a hell upon earth to be in debt) I would stay here all winter to drink the water. I have met here a pretty many Whigs whose inseparable qualities, malice and hypocrisy, were very apparent, some cunningly, others plainly lessening the Ministers and public credit, especially the South Sea Company, calling it a chimera, &c. It is a sure maxim that these men who are naturally, and by principle, enemies to a man, will rarely become his hearty friends, by any tie of gratitude, and if my Lord Treasurer would oblige one hundred Whigs with good

places, ninety of them would endeavour his ruin when a fair opportunity offered. If his Lordship be not infatuated he must know this better than I do. My heart grieves at the account we have here of the expedition having mis-carried with the loss of so many brave men, but I am very glad that Major General Hill is in safety. I hope this winter will produce a good Peace. Mr. Lowndes was here, a sociable good companion, and I verily believe he is an honest good Churchman. One thing I earnestly entreat you to oblige me in, that is to give my Lord Treasurer my humble duty, which may remind him of me, with your adding what you think fit that you know of me. I hope his Lordship will in due time think on me.

ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, October [12-]23, N.S. Milan—We came hither on the 17th, on the 19th had a particular audience of the King of Spain (Charles). His Majesty spoke most graciously of the Queen and the honours he received in England, we being the only Britons here at present. I had a good mind to ask something when he asked wherein it was he could serve us, my religion and modesty have been always the two great enemies of my fortune, and at this time made the King lose his compliment. There have been several expresses from Frankfort with the news of the King being chosen Emperor; the morrow Prince Charles of Newburgh is expected here, with advice of it from the Electoral College. Then we shall be out of mourning for three days and all the Princes of Italy will be here to acknowledge him. Prince Gaston of Tuscany arrived some days since, the Duke of Modena stays at Pavia, two posts from hence, the Duke of Parma is at Piacenza, five posts off. All the horse in their dominions are employed for their train, so that 'tis not possible for strangers to pass that way, if they have their own horses they risk to lose them as much as if they were on the borders of Wales. I was obliged to go to the Duchess of Modena to ask horses and so to the Duke of Parma, I believe I should not have had them after all, if I had not pretended public business. Cardinal Imperiale comes from the Pope, some say as Legate *a latere*. I shall be glad to see his Eminence here be his character what it will, he is my good patron and has a better library than the Bishop of Ely [Moore]. We hear the King has named some regiments to be sent into Spain, if Mr. Prior do not prevent him. I do not mind what I hear on that head, if it prove true, I'll scour off to Genoa and enjoy the Opera.

I'm surprised to have found two old editions of Pliny's Epistles, in which there's not a syllable of these letters of his relating to the Christians. Is it possible, that our Doctors have palmed that upon us as they have other things. I have found a great many classical books of the 1460 to the 1489; I buy no others but these first editions of which I hope to have in a short time the lordliest set in London; of Plautus I have all the editions before that of Beroaldo in the year 1503. Pray recommend this author with my service to your son, tell him to remember that saying of his *sat habet fautorum is qui recte facit*. I was well pleased to see this day a very incorrect Martial with an excommunication prefixed to every one that shall offer to correct that text. I hear there is such a Horace too, if so, let Dr. Bentley look to himself. By some letters from England I hear that there's a

great "puther" made about Dr. Woderte's (Woodward's?) Shield, which they say is put into the Livy printed lately at Oxford, and that Dodwell offered to defend its antiquity. As I never was of Dodwell's mind in anything, so I suspend my judgment in this, but on the questions sent from England I consulted the antiquaries at Rome, in short all of 'em say it is not ancient. Dodwell's Mortality of the Soul has lost him in this country and Magliabecchi, talking with me on that dotage of Divines. showed me a book of a Paduan Doctor in which he pretends to prove that our Saviour was not crucified but poisoned.

At Florence we had no difficulty about ceremonials with Mr. Molesworth. I wish Lord Cornbury had been better advised, and not have made himself a screen to cover other people's disaffection to the Queen's Minister, who methinks is one of the best bred gentlemen in the foreign service; but to be plain Mr. Dawney and others have made use of my Lord Cornbury to serve their own ends. The next week we go to Genoa from thence to Turin where we shall stay till Christmas.

The Earl of Glasgow to the Earl of Mar.

1711, October 15. Kelburn—I renew my request for preserving me in my office, there being great rumours here of alterations. When I received the office of Register on Lord Philiphaugh's death I had a settlement of 1,200*l.* yearly for my service in the Union Parliament; I never had the least favour or countenance from the Junto ministry, having opposed them in every measure wherein the interest of the monarchy was concerned, for which they mortally hate me. If her Majesty should be obliged to give my present post to any other I beg you would stand my friend to get my former settlement renewed.

Copy.

The Earl of Orrery to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, October [15-]26, N.S. Brussels—Your Lordship's letter of the 6th of September came to my hands but a few days ago, and I have not had an opportunity of acknowledging the honour of it sooner. I am very much concerned that the Duke of Argyll should give the least occasion to suspect the possibility of his ever becoming your enemy. I daresay you will never give him any justifiable reason for it, and after the steps he has taken 'tis very difficult to foresee any conjuncture in which he could make such a turn without great reflection both upon his understanding and his honour. I do really believe he cannot judge so ill as to let such a thought enter into his head and I hope the letters which he writ by Mr. Britton will convince all his friends that he is not capable of so very much levity whatever warm expressions he may have used in some of his letters during the summer. All his faults I think proceed from his temper, his heart I daresay is good, and I am very much mistaken in him if he ever be guilty of betraying or giving up his friend; but the openness of his nature requires perhaps that he should be treated by all his friends with as little reservedness as the good of the public affairs will allow, and his excellent qualities as well as considerable interest deserve some indulgence I hope to his frailties. I will trouble your Lordship now no more upon this subject because I hope soon to have an opportunity of quieting any remains of uneasiness between him and his friends if there should be occasion for such a mediation which I cannot but

flatter myself there will not. I am confident I need say very little to your Lordship upon my own account, I hope I have given so many proofs of my attachment to your Lordship, to your friends and to your interest, that I am persuaded I cannot be thought to have any other views than I have always had in that respect till I give the world reason to judge me both a worse and a weaker man than I hope I can ever be thought. I have not seen Sir J. Abercromby nor does your Lordship so far explain yourself as to tell me what you would have me do for him, but I hope soon to have the honour of waiting upon you in England, and then your Lordship may be assured I shall be very ready to obey your commands.

The Earl of Nottingham to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, October 15. Burley—I was extremely surprised this morning with the honour of a letter from your Lordship and more with the contents of it, for I did not expect that your Lordship should have taken the trouble of communicating to me an affair of so vast importance as the settling the preliminaries of a Peace, of which I am not a competent judge, not having for some time been acquainted with any matters relating to the public administration. But as no man can wish better to his country than I do, so I am very glad to hear from your Lordship so good a character of this treaty as your Lordship gives it, for I may conclude that the accounts of it in the prints must be very imperfect, and your Lordship's favour therefore was much the greater because it gives me hopes of better things.

[Daniel De] Foe* to the [Earl of Oxford].

1711, October 16—As it has always been my study to be where, and be doing what may render me most useful, so I always think it my duty to signify it to your Lordship when and where I may be capable of doing any service. This occasions me humbly to move you at this time. I acknowledge it is but little my low station is capable of, but if ever I was, or ever shall be, capable of rendering you any service, if I have any foresight into things, now is the juncture; when the minds of the people, fluctuating and stormy like the sea, listen to every wicked inflamer and would listen also to calm and cool admonitions if given with temper and sincerity.

I have humbly addressed your Lordship and constantly attended in order to obtain your approbation of my thoughts on this head, being afraid to be officious, yet hitherto I go unsent *(sic)*, your leisure not permitting my audience. This, however, is a great misfortune to me, and my enemies who reproach me (as they think) with being under your direction labour to suppress me for what I do not enjoy the honour of.

I am persuaded, and this makes me bold to move your Lordship, that I am yet able to conquer the obstinacy of a hot but deluded party and at least to take off the edge of that venomous spirit that has infected them. I only humbly entreat your approbation and protection so far as I do my duty therein. I have represented my case to you, I add nothing to it but (that I)† have irritated and exasperated the party so much by but gently refusing to declare for (unsatis)†factory and unpeaceable measures; that unless your Lordship pleases to take

* Signature partly torn. † Torn off.

me into your protection, and afford me the usual support your own goodness laid the foundation of, *I shall one day fall by the hand of this Saul.* Pardon me the allusion, but the case is so far gone, that I could not refrain this hint. The present case I beg of your Lordship is only whether a warm application to the opening the people's eyes in the affair of peace in which they are going mad will be acceptable to you, in which, as my own principle agrees and the public service requires, so I humbly suggest your Lordship's service also very much consists.

There are some measures for this which I would lay before you also, if I had the honour of half an hour of your leisure. I shall attend this evening as you were pleased to order me, in hopes of admittance.

Postscript.—I hope your Lordship does not forget that I had success in as hard a case in Scotland.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—" Mr. Goldsmith."

JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, October 16. Petty France, Westminster—I never thought I should have troubled your Lordship as a wine-broker, but I could not deny the request of Mr. Hales, especially when it was to recommend to your Lordship some of the best Tokay wine that ever was brought into England, as he says, and as your Lordship will know when you have tasted the three sorts I herewith send you, of which I know nothing but the price, and that is high enough; but it is very dear even at Vienna where I have drunk of it with Lord Paget.

The DUKE OF ORMOND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, October 17. Dublin—Last Sunday we received the bills, which has given great content to the gentlemen here, but the money bills returning without alterations has given great satisfaction, and will make the Sessions much easier than it would have been, had it been altered, as was wished for by some sort of people here, that desire to make everything difficult and uneasy. We must owe to your Lordship the bills coming to us as it is, and I for my part shall always acknowledge the favour.

The City business is made an end of, and should not have gone to so great a height had the City shown the respect they owed to the Government, but they are now come to good temper, and I am to dine with them to-morrow at the Tolsell where we shall drink your Lordship's health.

My Lord, I some time ago recommended Mr. Ingoldsby to your protection, and I do it now again, and hope your Lordship will help me in what I now do humbly propose to her Majesty in the behalf of this gentleman, that I am very sure is truly devoted to her Majesty's service, which is, that her Majesty would be so generous, as to show him a mark of her favour by honouring of him, with a title in this Kingdom; that of a Viscount, I should humbly hope her Majesty would be pleased to grant him, he has estates sufficient to support the honour.

The EARL OF SUFFOLK to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, October 21. Audley End—I received a letter about three weeks since (by your Lordship's commands) from Mr. Tho. Harley of

the Treasury, an abstract of which is here underwritten, with my answer to it:—

My Lord Treasurer finding by an article in a Report made to the House of Lords, by the Lords' Committees to consider of the method of keeping Records, that I (Lord Suffolk) had proposed to the Committee, that certain Records and Books of the Court of Wards lying in great confusion (in a large room adjoining to Westminster Hall) should be removed to the Heralds Office, and that the Committee was of opinion the same should be done, and a Schedule of them made and laid before her Majesty, and also before the said House, by the first of February next; that it may be known what they are, and whether it may be proper to remove any of them to some other place, or to have them remain in the Heralds Office, to enable them the better to make out the Descents and Pedigrees of the Nobility. And he wrote further that your Lordship desired to know, whether the Heralds have considered this affair, or are taking any measures about performing the work proposed to be done thereby.

In answer to Mr. Harley's, I desired him to let your Lordship know that I had discoursed the Officers of Arms about this whole matter, and that they assured me, they would respectively apply themselves to sort and schedule the same as soon as possible. Such a work could be done, after they are removed to their Office, where proper and convenient presses &c. will be made to place them in, and care should be taken to remove them forthwith, when your Lordship would be pleased to let me have an order for that purpose.

Now, since my letter to Mr. Harley, I am informed that there are orders given to remove them to another place, which I am so extremely surprised at, that I am afraid in the great hurry of business your Lordship may be in, Mr. Harley may have forgotten to lay my letter before you, and therefore, to prevent any mistakes of that kind, I have given your Lordship this trouble, and am in hopes to receive your directions to remove the Records &c. to the Heralds Office (pursuant to the opinion of the House of Lords), the Officers of Arms having assured me, that whenever they have them the utmost care that is possible shall be taken of them.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

[1711, October 22, *received*]—Upon all the discourse I have had with the Pensionary Buys, I take the freedom to lay before you my humble considerations, knowing very well what powerful arguments your Lordship has already used to persuade him to bring on a general treaty of peace, so necessary for this nation, and so much to be wished for to all Europe, and heartily longed for even by the Dutch. One of the greatest reasons why he says that a treaty cannot be brought on in the method prescribed or intended by the Queen is, that if once such a treaty be brought on, there is no breaking it off again without breaking the Alliance, and consequently they must accept of such or any terms which the enemy will come to, or be left to themselves to carry on the war.

Another argument he makes use of is really what will come to pass, but why the Queen and her dominions should suffer for it, I leave to your Lordship to judge, which is, that if a treaty be immediately gone upon as the Queen intends, and that the wisest and best of the States

ministers insist upon such a barrier and such a tariff or treaty of commerce as may be thought safe and advantageous for the State, and without which they ought not to be satisfied, the French refusing some one or more of the principal towns which the States do insist upon, and think absolutely necessary for their safety, and also refuse to grant some articles of their treaty of commerce, the different interests of the several United Provinces will force the treating ministers to accept of fewer towns, and worse articles for their commerce than they ought to have or can be easy without having, for, says he, the Deputies of the Province of Utrecht who are unreasonably earnest for a peace, would say, why should we prolong the war for Douay, yea even for Lille, or perhaps for Tournay itself? The Province of Gelderland, which has no interest in trade, would say, shall we continue under the present insupportable taxes to enrich Holland and Zealand, let us rather not insist upon tonnage, or any other valuable article for the benefits of navigation and commerce; and so our own provinces, divisions, and different interests would become the greatest obstructions to our general welfare and to the obtaining from the enemy what is absolutely necessary for our safety and advantageous for our commerce and navigation.

Seeing M. Buys seems so forward and hearty for peace, and only dislikes the methods gone upon here (which are no doubt as much for the advantage of England, as the Dutch methods would be for their and not for our benefits), why may it not (with humble submission to your better judgment) be proposed to him to return with all convenient speed, and even before his return, to write to the States to send passports to the French ministers, to come were it but to Gertruydenberg in the former method to treat about their barrier and tariff, in order to bring on a general treaty at any of the places appointed. What reason can the States have against this method, more than they had for admitting before the treaty of Ryswyk, Mons. de Calliere to come to Delft, and to Leydschendam, a fine village about one league from the Hague, where the first Plenipotentiary Burgermaster, Boreel of Amsterdam, to my certain knowledge entertained all the Conferences with Mr. de Calliere and there settled the preliminaries and the treaty of commerce which were afterwards agreed upon at Ryswyk. I dare say that if once they but admit the French Ministers they will not part nor have leave to separate without an agreement, and the French Ministers being once admitted, the public credit will advance, and the general and reasonable hopes of a peace will bring people to lend their money to the public on any good fund, and will at the same time support the prices of the old funds.

Let the Allies' Ministers at the Hague and them agree, whether they shall allow any one else except the Dutch to meet at that previous place. For a previous treaty of barrier and commerce, they had interest enough to keep every one from Gertruydenberg but their own people, they may still insist on the same method if they think fit; and her Majesty assuring them of her assistance, and that nothing shall be concluded in general till they have satisfaction, I cannot see what reason they can have to refuse an immediate admission of the French Ministers, or at least the sending them passports with such a proposal to come to a previous treaty for their barrier and commerce, assuring the French that their being reasonable on these subjects, nothing can hinder their bringing a treaty for speedy and lasting peace to a happy conclusion.

ROBERT GREEN to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1711, October 25. Clare Hall [Cambridge]—Dr. Gastrell who waits upon you with this will explain my humble request that you will permit me to dedicate my Principles of Natural Philosophy to your Lordship. I have near four hundred subscriptions in this University towards its publication, which will be a sufficient testimonial that I am encouraged in this performance.

WILLIAM PLOWMAN to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, [October 31-]November 10, N.S. Naples—I cannot express my joy at finding you at the head of the ministry. May everything prosper to your heart's content.

The Grand Duke not paying what was by her Majesty adjudged in my favour obliged me to go to sea for a livelihood, where I have not been unsuccessful, and meeting at Smyrna with a fine Turkey carpet fit to spread a bedchamber, a thing not disagreeable in a moist, cold country, I presume to offer it as a present to you, together with a chest of "true Smyrna Visney" and four chests of the best wine this kingdom affords, as a small remembrance of the vast deal I owe your Lordship for affording me your most generous protection against the Grand Duke and his emissaries.

The REV. W. PERCEVAL to the REV. DR. GASTRELL, Christ Church, Oxford.

1711, November 1. Dublin—I have been a great while in your debt for an obliging letter which you writ from Oxford, but we have been for these two months so closely engaged in Convocation affairs that I have not had leisure to write to any body. Our Session is now drawing to an end and I can tell you that we have in pursuance of the Queen's letter made several Canons which have passed both Houses and are now ready for the Royal assent. We have also prepared a Form for receiving converts of all sorts, but especially Papists, to which I am assured by some of the Bishops that their House will agree. We have also drawn up a scheme for converting the Irish, which has been the most difficult part of our whole work by reason of the many impracticable projects that have been proposed to us. Particularly many branches of Mr. Richardson's scheme seemed to most to be of dangerous consequence, however we have appointed Curates' Assistants, or in other words Missionaries, to be sent out amongst the Irish, but under such regulations as are too tedious here to recount, and which will never be put in practice, I fear, because we have no fund to support them, nor shall we ever attempt to get one from such a House of Commons as this. As for printing in the Irish tongue it is impossible for you in England to have a just notion of the ill consequences that appear very obviously to us here. Should an Irish press be set at work here, let what care would be taken, Missals and Breviaries and other books would by stealth be printed from it. And it is allowed by all that we ought not to do anything to encourage or propagate that language, and it was our opinion that there is not one single man in the kingdom that can read Irish but he can read English also; and in the hands of such English books would be effectual to the end proposed by the Irish books, whereas should an

Irish press be set up they would instruct their children in that language. But for the use of the Missionaries which are to be sent amongst them we have ordered that Bibles and Common Prayer Books should be provided for their use only and not to be put into the hands of the people, by reason that not one (as I observed before) can read Irish but he can read English also. And these can be provided from the several impressions that have been already made in this kingdom. But after all I am assured that the Bishops will reject this scheme of ours and will send us down a more practicable scheme of their own, which will not be disagreeable to our House because our own abounds with so many difficulties and impracticable things that scarce one of us but what is sick of it. We are now upon the representation of the state of Religion; there is so good an understanding between the two Houses that we have no reason to doubt but that we shall agree in this as well as we have in other things. I forbear publishing my Answer to Dr. Synge whilst these things of importance are upon the anvil for fear I should give a handle of interruption to them. This some of my friends amongst the Bishops advise and my own opinion falls in with it. *Seal.*

SIR ROBERT DAVERS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, November 1. Rushbrooke—Though you do not think of me I have you always in my thoughts. The reason I write to you now is to tell you that I believe the Whigs have mischief in their heads—that you know I believe. There was lately a great meeting of them at Lord Orford's to the number of seventeen, almost all Lords, Robin Walpole amongst them, and I find by words that dropt from some Lords of this country that they will be up the first day. Be on your guard and do not doubt but our friends in the House of Commons will be ready to stand by you. The preliminaries stick hard on them.

The EARL OF DUNBARTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, November 7. London—The Duke of Queensberry laid before you some time before his death an account of what is due to me from the crown. I humbly beg to repeat the same. I have no other subsistence in the world but her Majesty's gratuities and royal favours.

If I had a regiment I should not be troublesome, but should have my fortune in my hands; and if I did not discharge my trust as a man of honour and as a true Douglas my head ought to pay for it. I have the honour and happiness to be born of as noble family as any in Europe, a family which rose by their sword, and which always distinguished itself by their courage and valour. I was brought up to that trade, and do design with God's will to live and die honourably in it. I am young and vigorous, and when her Majesty does give me a regiment I desire only to be sent where I may distinguish myself.

Annexed:—"An account of what's due to the earl of Dunbarton," which shows that the sum of 1,150*l.* still remains unpaid for his services with the army in Flanders.

DR. GEORGE SMALRIDGE to LORD HARLEY.

1711, November 8—Here is a warm report at this end of the town, that you were married in Henry the Seventh's chapel, say some, in St.

Margaret's church, say others, yesterday morning. This waits upon you not to break into any thing, which you may desire to keep secret, but to congratulate you, if you are married, and if you are not, to wish you soon may be to the honour, advantage, and satisfaction of yourself and your family.

I beg that when you have a proper opportunity you would enquire of my Lord Treasurer, whether her Majesty referred to him a petition from Dr. Onley and Mr. Cole, once Chaplains to the Hospital of the Savoy, till Sir Nathan Wright was pleased to pass a Decree, much complained of, for the dissolution of the Hospital. Such a petition, praying that the Hospital might be refounded, and they restored, was presented to the Queen by his grace of York, and her Majesty told his grace that she would refer it to my Lord Treasurer. Dr. Onley desires to know, whether such a reference was made that he may apply to his Lordship, or renew his application to the Queen. He is the more concerned to stir in this quickly because the Dean of Rochester, Dr. Pratt, is about to petition the Queen, that the church and churchyard of the Savoy may be given to the parishioners of St. Mary le Strand, and the Master's house, or part of it, may be given for a dwelling house to the minister of that parish. If this request of the Dean's should be granted, the deprived members of the Savoy would be precluded from all hopes of a restoration. If my Lord Treasurer should think it worth his while to know the state of that affair, my Lord Keeper, who has made himself master of it, would acquaint him with it.

Postscript.—By a letter which I received last night from Sir Roger Mostyn, I find that he has been dangerously ill of a fever, that his lady is now confined to her bed, that his second son is dying, and that these disasters of his family hinder him from coming up to attend that office which he owes to my Lord Treasurer's favour.

The Duke of Hamilton to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 9—I hope you have heard that I have sent several times to inquire of your health, but find by your servants that you have not been for seeing of company else I had waited on your Lordship, having much to talk to you upon which can't be so well understood by writing, did I make my letter a volume; and the business of my Patent alone I take to be of so much concern to the Queen that I must entreat you to let me know when I may wait of you, to talk upon that matter. I had a letter from my Lord Kilsyth who is gone to prevail with the Marquis of Annandale to come up, to whom also I have written upon the same subject. I expect Lord Kilsyth here in a day or two, and then I shall be capable of giving you a fuller account of our side's affairs, and I am in hopes the Earl Marischal will be soon here.

Frederick I. King of Prussia, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November [8-]19, N.S. Berlin—The Marshal de Bieberstein, my minister of state and plenipotentiary at the Court of her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain has received from me as a guiding rule in his instructions that he is in every case to address himself to you as to a minister whom I hold in particular esteem on account of the great merits by which you have always been distinguished in the world.

And as the Marshal is charged with nothing which is not based upon the general good of Europe and upon reason and equity, I hope that you will listen favourably to all that he will have to say on my part and that you will use the influence so justly gained upon her Majesty in bringing those matters in which he will need your help to a good and prompt settlement. *French. Signed. Seal.*

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, November 9. Whitehall—Upon the references I received this summer by your Lordship's order relating to St. Christophers I did presume to inform you by a particular letter of the reason the Queen had been pleased to grant short leases of several Plantations in the conquered part of that Island, for that it was hoped, that by the next treaty of Peace this whole island might remain in full propriety to her Majesty, whereby great benefit would accrue to the inhabitants of the English part and to her Majesty's Revenue by quitrents under which the other moiety might afterwards be granted, as I then took leave to mention more at large to you and have since my return, upon the present appearances, endeavoured, by my own attendance, to remind your Lordship of a matter of so much importance to her Majesty's service, but understanding your indisposition, I venture hereby to repeat these considerations to you.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, November 9—I went from your Lordship to Lord Somers' door, but missed of him, and this morning I received the enclosed, which vexed and surprised me extremely; for I think it of very great consequence, that he should wait upon your Lordship, and that you should act in concert and take measures together in this great affair, which I am confident may end gloriously, if we do not mistake one another in pursuing the same intentions. I hope this short delay will make no great alteration, and on Monday I will be in town on purpose to meet him.

SIR WILLIAM LOWTHER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, November 12. Swillington—On behalf of Mr. Dalston, put on for the Sheriff of Cumberland, he being now in Yorkshire where he constantly resides, desiring that he may be excused, as it will be a great charge and fatigue for him to go into that country. His father, Sir John Dalston, is still alive and has lately served as Sheriff.

[LORD HARCOURT to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711, November 12—I left her Majesty well. She was pleased with great goodness to enquire after your health, and received the account I gave her of your amendment with great satisfaction. A gentleman waited for my return to inform me, that a memorial is preparing to be laid very speedily before the Queen by the Junto Lords and their adherents, to represent the ill consequences of the present negociation for peace. He told me this with great positiveness and that Sir Joseph Jekyll is employed to draw it, and went out of Court

this morning early for that purpose. If this be possible you will be pleased to consider whether it may not be proper, if you find such a design is really on foot, to prevent the Queen being surprised by a sudden attack of this kind.

The Duke of Hamilton to [the Earl of Oxford], Lord Treasurer.

1711, November 13—I was at Hampton Court when you did me the honour to write to me, and I waited till I should see my Lord Kilsyth, whom I saw this morning and by him I find our northern friends are not making any haste hither.

Your Lordship is a much better judge than I am whether her Majesty's interest at this juncture requires their attendance, but if it does I am afraid though they were ready to begin their journey (except those who come post) it is impossible they can be here, by the time this prorogation is elapsed. Therefore I think it my duty to lay this before you, that if her Majesty's service necessarily requires their attendance that you should take the effectual measures of bringing them here in time; for I can assure you that hitherto it has not been done and I would by no means have her Majesty's interest suffer and your Lordship disappointed. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that you lose no time to give those Lords satisfaction; for the continuation of the others in the posts who opposed her Majesty's measures last year makes them very slow at present.

I presume you know this from others, but the zeal I have for her Majesty's service and the regard I have for your ministry makes me take upon me to give you this seasonable advertisement. Pardon me if I say you have no time to lose, for if by this very post you don't give the necessary directions in point of time, it will be impossible they can be here in due time.

I am of the number of those who neither incline nor desire to look back, nor can I believe anybody can justly propose security to themselves who would do so. I can assure you there have been those who have been with all industry endeavouring to promote an address to her Majesty at Glasgow against the peace, but better thinking people have prevented it. You may easily judge from whence this comes and take measures accordingly, but pardon me to say you can find no quarters from those who are pushing things of this nature. I am a dutiful faithful servant to the Queen's interest, and a hearty well wisher to your Lordship's ministry, and since it is so you'll allow those who are in the same boat with you to have some concern for your success.

You may perhaps say I take too much upon me to talk thus to you, but it proceeds from true zeal and affection, and knowing the temper of our people so well, that if you don't come to facts immediately, depend upon it, you need not reckon upon their assistance.

I think it is the best service I can do the Queen and your Lordship to speak plainly to you and if I had the honour to see you I might do it better than I can express myself by writing, but I venture to pawn my reputation upon it that you'll find what I say literally true, and don't think as the concern I may have for the success of my own introduction into the House only, but other things which may be full as important to her Majesty's service and your Lordship's quiet. So I humbly beg you'll by this night's post or by an express take such effectual measures as may bring our people here in time. I am sure

you won't say I have been deficient in laying this before you. Now permit me to say a few words upon another subject, which is relating to the Sheriffship of Staffordshire.

Your Lordship doubtless is informed that Sir John Harper, Sir Edward Littleton and George Birch of Harbon are the three upon the list to be Sheriff for this year. The two first have many friends who are interceding to get them excused, and I am one of that number and I have reason to believe application will be made to you to excuse the third. I know the public service requires at this time that a good man should be sheriff, and for that reason I was this day to wait upon Mr. Paget who is knight of the shire and whom naturally they apply to, to be excused; and in his circumstance he's inclinable to do all the good offices to the country gentlemen upon such occasion. But since one must be I confess I wish it came to Mr. Birch's share, he is a very honest gentleman and can answer all the ends one can wish on this occasion; I would not take the liberty of saying this if I did not know it.

[John Drummond to Robert Harley?*].

1711 [1710?], November [14-]25, N.S.—I am very heartily sensible of the honour you are pleased to do me by your favours of the 7th-18th instant, and nothing can be a greater satisfaction to me than that you are well pleased to have a just opinion of my weak endeavours for your service, which shall never be wanting while I may have the least hopes of their being either useful or agreeable to you, and my intention by writing you a great many things and passages which happen on this side, though of little importance, is that you may perhaps find something in them which you would rather be acquainted with, than be ignorant of; and what I troubled you with in my last of my Lord Southesk's conversations at some Courts of Germany, was to show you the prepossession and mistaken or wrong information of these Courts, and how little some of them are to be depended on, though they may sometimes appear fair to your friends you happen to send there. My Lord Raby is surely more master of the intrigues of the Court of Berlin than any foreign minister there, and you will I hope find some fit person for Hanover who will put them by degrees right and teach them by experience, seeing words and assurances seem to have little influence on them; and in my weak opinion my Lord Hay, of whose family they have naturally a good opinion, and no great man of the Queen's subjects has done more honour to the old Electress's recommendations in the army than the Duke of Argyll, may be a very proper person to reside there, though I am afraid his Lordship may hardly think it honourable enough for him, and advantageous it can never be without a very great allowance, which made Colonel Worsley decline staying there.

'Tis no small satisfaction to me in the present state in which my weak comprehension believes the affairs of the public to be, that you can live with ——— who is expected to-morrow or next day at the Hague. He finds matters in Brabant and Flanders pretty difficult, a people harassed and plundered betwixt two covetous masters, without any right either

* This letter is out of place. It begins "Sir," and is endorsed by Harley "1711," but a comparison of it with Drummond's letters of November, 1710, shows that it should have been included in the correspondence of the latter year.

of them to that employment, quartered upon in a manner by an unpaid German army, robbed of all commerce and profits except by being subservient to their wealthy interested neighbours who are daily invading their rights and privileges, and I may say a second time plundered by under-strappers of the great pretenders to their Government. I say such a people if by longsufferings be become a little intractable stubborn and next to desperate is no great wonder, and yet at this present time great pains are taken to make them hold their tongue and forget their former ill treatment, that their excess may not reach the ears of a merciful righteous Queen and offended mistress.

Our Pensionary is at the meeting of the States of this province at the Hague, where he will continue till the questions come there from Brussels, so I shall have occasion to see them perhaps together. You may be easy, Sir, that no ill use shall ever be made of what you are pleased to write to me, but wherever I can do anything for your ease or honour it will be the joy of my heart.

The Antwerp Gazette which I send Mr. Secretary St. John by this post has always the best account of our affairs in Spain, for though we have merchant letters every post from Bilbao they dare write no news. Our East India Company having advanced one hundred and eighty thousand pounds to our Admiralty they are more expeditious in their equipages than was expected, five men of war of our eight will sail to-morrow for Portsmouth; if the wind be fair the others will follow in fourteen days.

If you can remedy the discount of the Exchequer notes, and could get the Bank to discount foreign Bills which have but one month to run, notwithstanding they discounted formerly at two months, matters would go very easy. [This] I hope they will do however when your Parliament is met; the Stocks being brought very low by the folly and malice of a party, the Dutch have taken the advantage of their weakness, and caused buy up immense sums of your Stocks. I beg a word of your opinion of navy Bonds.

I shall wait from Decker the letter you are to return me, I hope it will be so sealed that he see nothing of it, for he is married to Mr. Watkins' sister, a match of my making which is the only one I ever meddled in. I have dipped so deep to serve your new (stock?) that while the war lasts, I cannot propose to myself the honour and pleasure of seeing you in England.

They write over that Lord President and you sq... and that he wants to be Lord T[reasurer]. I hope and believe it otherwise and that you will stick by that or some people of my acquaintance will not meddle. I shall be much obliged for your paying Lord Rivers' bill in money to Mr. Decker and any information you want about tin be pleased to let me know, and anything else you esteem me capable of serving you without reserve.

Dr. Francis Atterbury to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 16. Christ Church, Oxford—Pensionary Buys's son has been here these three days. I received a letter from Mr. Secretary St. John recommending him to me. I knew your Lordship's regard for his father, and the importance of his character at this juncture and have therefore taken care that no civility should be wanting, which I was capable of showing him. I cannot forbear declaring to your Lordship, that he is one of the finest, most sensible

and sprightly youths I ever saw. Everybody here is to the highest degree pleased with him. His companion intimated to me as if his father designed to educate him in Oxford, which I mention to your Lordship, that if you find any disposition that way, you may be prepared, if you think fit to encourage it.

The place I am in puts me in mind of my great obligations to your Lordship, nor is there any place wherein it is possible for me to forget them.

The Earl of Kinnoull to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 16. Dupplin House—I had a letter from my son, wherein he desires me to let you know my thoughts about the Duke of Atholl, and being ill of the gout it was some days before I was able to wait upon him. After I have talked with him I find that he does not incline to go for London unless he be employed in the Queen's service; he says he has not money of his own to spend there, and cannot think of being troublesome to the Queen as he was last, but if her Majesty employ him in her service as he tells me he had ground from your Lordship to expect, he shall be ready to serve the Queen either there or here as she shall command him. So I think this matter is very right, and you may turn it into what shape you will, and have him up or not as you please, only I am afraid if he be disobliged he may be uneasy, particularly with regard to that affair you have been agitating with Mr. Stewart. I wait for your commands which my son tells me you are to send with the messenger that brings the Commission, which shall be obeyed so far as is in my power.

[The Rev. W. Perceval] to the Rev. Dr. Gastrell, Greenwich.

1711, November 17. Dublin—Yours of the 6th I have received and shall here comply with your desire of knowing what we have done in Convocation. I have already given you an account of our schemes about converting the Irish which, as I guessed before, are come to nothing. We have drawn up a Representation of the state of Religion, which was composed by the Upper House and sent down to us, we made large amendments to it, to which their Lordships agreed. The forms for receiving converts into the Church had their rise in our House and were with some amendments agreed to by the Upper. Forms of Prayer for the use of prisoners and especially condemned persons were drawn up by us, and were so well received by the Upper House that they agreed to them without any one amendment. We have also made six new Canons the titles whereof I here send you. 1. For preventing extra-judicial dismission of criminals and stifling proceedings against them. 2. Concerning citations and the manner of serving them. 3. To prevent abuses in commutation of penances. 4. Concerning Vicars General, Chancellors, Commissaries and Officials. 5. Public warning to be given before excommunication. 6. For the more effectual prevention and discovery of clandestine marriages.

All these before we broke up we laid before his Grace to transmit to the Queen. I cannot enough commend the perfect good understanding that has during the whole Session appeared between the two Houses and I must remark this too that had it not been for intermediate Sessions (which indeed we have from the beginning without any the least contest enjoyed) very little of this business had been done, for

the Bishops by reason of their attendance in Parliament were not able to meet often in the morning, but we met both morning and evening, and most of the business prepared by us was done in these intermediate Sessions. Our time was but short and a great deal of business was recommended us which made our Sessions long as well as frequent, for besides our morning Sessions the two Houses usually met every evening at five o'clock, and seldom did ever the Upper House break up till eleven or twelve, and sometimes not till one in the morning, though this was owing in great measure to the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishop of Cork, who hung upon the wheels and did what they could to obstruct business, and did at last openly declare against having any done at all, but were for having an Address presented to the Queen (which the Bishop of Cork drew out of his pocket and presented to the House for that purpose) to tell her Majesty that we were so stinted in time as that we could do nothing. And some dependants upon these two Prelates in our House were not less industrious to clog business and to give us as much trouble in the expediting of it as possibly they could. However we made a shift to go through every branch of what the Queen had recommended to us, though their Lordships have not agreed to everything that we sent up to them, and which we impute rather to their being stinted in time than that they disliked them. After we had done with business we thought it was now proper to do justice to the Convocation in respect of my friend Lambert. We had summoned him out of the country before to answer to a charge against him as the author of the letter in "Partiality Detected," and he had appeared in obedience to it, but we would not interrupt business for him, but now that all was over we called him to answer whether he was the author of that letter. He behaved himself with more modesty and humility than in the time of my Lord Wharton and said it was hard that he should be desired to answer that question, for should he own it he would be found guilty out of his own mouth, and should he deny it nobody would believe him. But it was proposed and everybody ran in with it that if on the word of a priest he should deny it we would acquiesce, and if he should own it and declare his sorrow for what he had done and beg pardon we would forgive him. Upon which he owned it, made his submission and begged pardon. Our friends are generally of opinion that we put up this affair too easily and I think we did; and yet I went into it as readily as any, for it did not become me, who had a personal dispute with him, to be more alive than others against him.

I have scarce room left to tell you that this bustle about Mr. Higgins is occasioned by the inveteracy of the Whigs, who will not if they can help it have any clergyman in the Commission of the Peace. He has had several hearings before the Council and has so confounded his adversaries that I may say they would have given some thousands of pounds that they had never meddled with him. He has perfectly cleared himself of everything that has been objected to him and such tampering with evidences to swear against him has appeared that the like was scarce ever known. No less persons than Mr. Molesworth, a Privy Councillor, and Mr. Forster, the Speaker of the House of Commons, have appeared amongst the tamperers.

Sir Robert Davers to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 20. Rushbrooke—I shall certainly be up on Monday next and will stand by you with my life and fortune. I beg

of your Lordship not to undertake to make the Whigs ashamed of any thing they have done. It is washing a blackamoor white. But with your assistance I hope to make them examples.

I endeavoured to kiss your hand before I left London. I waited on you at Lord Halifax's house, and obeyed you in staying until the South Sea bill was passed, and shall always be ready to show that I am, &c.

The Earl of Glasgow to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 22. Edinburgh—I received a letter from the Commissioners for the public accounts, desiring me to exhibit to them a true account of what public money was lent by the Treasury of England to the Treasury of Scotland from the month of May 1706 to the month of May 1707. Now there was no money lent by the Treasury of England to the Treasury of Scotland, and not the least vestige of it to be seen in the Treasury of Scotland, for if it had been known that there had been a farthing sent from England to Scotland it would have totally disappointed the carrying on of the Union. But, in respect that the fund for maintaining the Civil List was entirely exhausted by the charge of former Parliaments, her Majesty was pleased to order the Earl of Godolphin to remit twenty thousand pounds sterling to the Duke of Queensberry, Commissioner to the Union Parliament, to defray his charge as Commissioner and to pay some part of the arrears of her Majesty's Ministers that were resting preceding the Union Parliament and to pay some part to those that had Letters of Pension from her Majesty. Accordingly the Earl of Godolphin put twenty thousand pounds sterling in the hands of Sir David Nairn, Secretary Deputy, who remitted the said money to me who was ordered by the Duke of Queensberry to keep the account of the same and to disburse it by his Grace's order. This is the true matter of fact, and I being enjoined to carry on this matter with the greatest secrecy and privacy, for if ever it had been in the least discovered during the "haill" session of the Union Parliament, the Union had certainly broken, and I had been infallibly "De Witted," our mob and generality of Scotland being so incensed against the Union. I have judged myself in duty bound to your Lordship to lay the account of the expending of that twenty thousand pounds before you, and if you shall think it proper for me to exhibit the same before the Commissioners for the public accounts your Lordship will be pleased to let me have your commands, which I shall punctually obey; for the Commissioners desire a particular account from me upon the 20th of December next.

If it had not been for my allegiance to her Majesty and the great duty and personal affection I had for her who pressed me very earnestly to do my utmost to carry on the Union, I had not acted so very fervent and zealous a part in the Union. Though I had many scruples, yet I entirely subjected myself to her will and pleasure and obeyed her Majesty's commands, and advanced six thousand pounds sterling upon my own credit several months before any part of that twenty thousand was paid in Scotland. And my Lord I trust in God, that I shall ever make it the business of my life, faithfully and affectionately to serve her Majesty and to the utmost of my power punctually to obey her commands.

I humbly beg your favour and protection, and if it be your good will and pleasure to continue me in my office, I dare say your Lordship shall not do a favour to an ungrateful man, and no person shall serve her Majesty more faithfully and affectionately.

JAMES GRAY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, November 22. Edinburgh—I hear there has been a complaint made at London of a new persecution raised here against the Episcopal Clergy, but if Doctor Scott and Mr. Gaderer had pleased they had done their party as good service to have let it alone. The best of our clergy here had rather suffer some hardship than be uneasy to the Government by complaining when little hurt is done them, and the present persecution amounts to no more than this, that the Advocate has writ a letter or two (by way of admonition) to the magistrates of Aberdeen, but no bad event has followed upon it, Mr. Dumbreck preaches there and is not disturbed, and so do all our ministers. It is true the Presbyteries summoned our ministers before them for innovation, but the magistrates do not concur with them, and therefore we cannot receive much harm from the proceedings of the former.

The Earl of Kinnoull lodged yesternight at Kirkliston and dined this day with the Marquis of Annandale at Cragiehall and is come to the town this night.

I have presumed to enclose a letter to Dr. Scott which if your Lordship please you may read, because it is a gentle reproof to him and Gaderer for making a noise about nothing. I knew they were at the Privy Seal with it.

The Earl Marshal is dangerously ill at Inerurie.

Postscript.—I wish there be not complaints of my stay here, if there be I rely upon your intercession. The Earl of Kinnoull is not positive when he is to leave this place.

VISCOUNT DUPPLIN to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1711, November 25]—I have been with my Lord Mar, he is very uneasy that our Scotch Peers did not get more early notice since they are wanted so soon, but he says it is impossible for them to be here Thursday seven night. It would be Saturday before the express came to Edinburgh, most of the Lords in the Commission would be at their country houses, so that to-morrow or Wednesday will be the soonest they can be in Edinburgh. It will take a day or two for them to constitute themselves, so that supposing the greatest dispatch they can possibly make, you cannot reckon they will be here before Thursday fortnight the 12th of December.

I'm sorry this should be the case, but the delaying to give them notice so long is the occasion of it, for they all expected to have timely notice, so as they might easily be here before there was any use for them.

My Lord Kilsyth is very earnest to wait upon your Lordship; he must be pleased soon, otherwise will turn very uneasy.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, November 25—Lord Somers and I think it would be most easy to your Lordship to call at my house when you are at Westminster Hall, and Lord Somers will be there by twelve to expect you at your

leisure. Lord Somers has not been abroad this week and if he should find himself worse, he or I will give you notice to change the meeting to his house, otherwise we shall expect the honour of seeing your Lordship here.

W. Bromley, the Speaker, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 25—I am under no apprehension that the enemies to peace can give any trouble in the House of Commons, but upon your Lordship's encouragement I think it my duty to let you know, I more fear uneasiness of another kind there, gentlemen being very desirous to answer the expectations of those that sent them thither, and to act as becomes a House of Commons chosen by a spirit raised from an opinion of great corruption in the late administration, that it would be now detected and punished, and that something would be done to secure our constitution in church and state against the vile principles and practices that had been countenanced to the endangering of both. The Commission of Accounts, I take it, will produce what will for the present entertain and satisfy them in the one, but the other is only to be done by putting the power into the hands of our friends, and by wholesome laws, if any are wanting, and can be framed that will be proper. The first is entirely your Lordship's province, the last too many think themselves sufficient for, and will be prescribing those remedies, and no one can tell how far their well meant zeal may carry them, unless care be taken to set them right, and keep them within those bounds which it is truly my concern they should not exceed.

I should be very sorry to have anything peevishly said or attempted by our friends, and will not fail using my utmost endeavours to prevent it, but all I can do will be ineffectual without your assistance. They were kept pretty quiet last session, expecting great advantages from the representation, which they now complain has been so little regarded that it only serves to bring them and their proceedings into contempt. I hear so much of this that I think I should not deserve any the least of those favours I receive from you if I did not plainly lay it before you; and there is nothing can give me greater pleasure than to be instrumental in any degree in preserving among our friends the esteem and confidence, nay the gratitude, due to your Lordship from them.

The Marquis of Annandale to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 27. Cragiehall—I am heartily sorry that I must acquaint you by this, that I cannot comply with her Majesty's commands to serve in this Commission, the business of Trade and Chamberlain is what I know nothing of, and I can never engage in any part of the Queen's service where I am so little capable to serve, else I should not act so faithful a part, as I ever design to do, both to her Majesty and your Lordship.

I humbly beg that you will not only accept of my excuse, but that you will do me the justice with her Majesty to satisfy her, that nothing but my being utterly incapable of being useful or significant in this part of her service, makes me decline this present occasion. I had the misfortune the very year before the Union to be so summarily turned out from being Secretary for Scotland and of being ill used by the last Ministry, that I was put under a necessity of refusing to

accept of the President of Council's post, because then I could not be serviceable, and therefore I must beg leave to say that unless the Queen have commands for me in some settled and fixed post in her service here, I cannot see how I can propose to be useful to her interest or service. I confess my Lord I have pleased myself with the expectations of this for some time, and I thought I had very just grounds to do so, but however it shall be, I hope you will do me the justice to believe, that there is not any subject has more honour for all the parts of her Majesty's service and sincerely designs faithfully to support the interest of her Government, and present Administration than I shall ever do. I wish with all my heart a happy and successful conclusion to the Peace, and as no man living can be more satisfied than I am, that all your undertakings are for the true and solid happiness and support of her Majesty and Government, so I do most sincerely wish, and as I may have access or opportunity will ever contribute my poor endeavours to, a comfortable and satisfactory issue of all of them.

I am sensible I give your Lordship too much trouble, and am very loth to be uneasy where I know I owe so much honour and service, and therefore shall only add that if it shall be my misfortune to be misrepresented upon this occasion either to the Queen or your Lordship I am the most injured man imaginable, for it is not possible for me to have one other thought than of being true and faithful to what I have said both to her Majesty and your Lordship, which shall ever be confirmed by all the proofs and evidences that are in my power.

OFFSPRING, BISHOP OF EXETER, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, November 28. Exeter—I am heartily concerned that it is not now in my power, in obedience to her Majesty's command to give my personal attendance in Parliament at the first opening of the Session, though it should be deferred for several days, for the roads as they now are, by reason of the excessive rains that have fallen of late, are in a manner impassible. Even the Posts have been thereby delayed, the last for several hours, and the former for a whole day, and if there should be now immediately a change of weather, yet considering that some days must necessarily be spent in the preparation for so long a journey and several months absence, and that my own age and infirmity will permit me to make but very short stages, it would not be possible for me to be in London in less than a fortnight from this time.

But the truth is, the smallpox having been lately and still being very much in these parts, and particularly in my own family in which three of my children and a servant have been sick, and I have had the misfortune to bury my eldest son and have two children more in the house who have never had it must be thought in danger, I could not induce myself to leave my family in this disconsolate condition; and therefore purposed, if I might not be excused for the whole winter (which I much desired, and still hope may be), yet at least to defer going to London till after Christmas, little business being usually done in Parliament before; the rather because having myself never had the distemper, I can't be secure that I have not taken the infection, and if so should choose to be sick, or (if it should please God) to die, at home rather than on the road, or in strange lodgings.

Nevertheless after all if her Majesty's service requires it, or it be only her Majesty's pleasure that I should attend sooner, it is so much

my inclination as well as duty to obey her commands that I am fully resolved upon the first notice thereof to lay aside all other considerations and both to begin, and (God willing) to perform, the journey with all possible expedition.

In the meantime I trust her Majesty will well approve my having given my proxy to the Bishop of Chester, by whom (not to give your Lordship further trouble) if her Majesty's pleasure be signified to me, it shall be to the utmost of my power punctually complied with.

H. Pulleine to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 28. London—Informing him that his father had been to see his Lordship's Turkish horses at Hyde Park Corner which were the most hopeful and beautiful he had ever set eyes upon. They have all the symptoms of good blood than can be required. They ought by no means to be suffered to take any purge as perhaps the London farriers will advise, for by many repeated experiences his father had always found that method utterly spoiled and ruined the Turkish horses; but instead of that to shred a large carrot every day for about six weeks among their corn for each horse, but care must be taken not to use any that have been frozen or wormeaten.

The Duke of Somerset to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 29—The very great honour your Lordship did me last night in giving yourself the trouble to come to me to communicate matters of that nature, the consequences thereof will or will not be to the future quiet and happy reign of the Queen, whose happiness and welfare you and I both ought in the highest sense of gratitude to have the preference of all other considerations in our thoughts, because I am but too sensible that her Majesty's health depends in a great measure on the disposition things have on her spirits. I need not repeat to your Lordship the consequence of that health and of that life to us and to our posterity, for I know we are in that particular both of the same sentiments, as I do wish we were so in those other matters which I shall defer troubling your Lordship with till I have the honour to wait on you.

[Daniel] De Foe to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November 30—In obedience to your command I here enclose the receipt which I had to sign, and have filled up the blank with the date. I do not exactly remember whether your order was to send the same signed or a copy written by me, but if I have mistaken I shall not fail to rectify it on your first command. Suitable to the extremities my last gave your Lordship an account I am reduced to, is my humble thankful return to your goodness and her Majesty's bounty.

I believe I need not give you an account how I am treated in print by the "Observator" for espousing the just article of peace, and how he is (and I have been offered to be) supported, and by whom. I am far from mentioning it as merit; but to let you know your enemies, and the fury they act with. The assurance they pretend to of breaking all her Majesty's measures abroad makes their friends perfectly insolent, and the fears lest they should terrify on the other hand.

I have openly declared against and opposed them, my own principle concurring with my duty to your Lordship therein; and as my entire dependence is that I shall not be left unsupported in the prosecution of that duty, this gives me confidence with all humility to represent my condition to you, and how, if ever this party prevail, I am to expect no quarter or favour, and in the meantime am only supported by this bounty of her Majesty, which is all owing to your goodness and the arrear whereof has so much reduced me.

I long for an occasion to lay before you the madness and rage of your enemies, and something also of the fears of your friends; God give your Lordship wisdom and courage, faithfulness to himself, and success to disappoint them all.

I shall go on to discharge my duty in opposition to all the madness of the age, recommending only myself and family to your goodness, which I cannot but hope will not decrease to me for my steady adhering, however weakly, to your Lordship's and the nation's interest.

Earl Poulett to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, November—I find Nottingham as sour and fiercely wild as you can imagine anything to be that has lived long in the desert; I had two hours and a half discourse this forenoon with him and shall acquaint you with it when you please. I am so sensible of your observation on the would be King that I own to you I am a great deal concerned how your numbers may answer in our House, for I think the Queen's enemies at present generally understand one another much better than her friends and servants. The adversaries have been a long time prepared for a meeting which will decide the fate of Europe as well as Britain, and I am sorry they are not yet below a question. Pardon me if I am too earnest, 'tis chiefly for your sake, my great comfort is only this, as old Leeds says, that you have a budget full of miracles upon all occasions. 'Tis clear to me Buys is in different concerns here, he proposes to please you in coming to Utrecht and to please your enemies in breaking the conferences there, he is exactly impertinent to a degree of affecting it.

To write you so long a letter, is almost as bad as coming to you, so I will conclude.

The Earl of Oxford to the Duke of Somerset.

1711, December 1—I return your Grace my hearty thanks for the honour of your letter and for your patience the other day during the long visit I made your Grace.

I entirely agree with you that the Queen's safety and honour are the first and chiefest points to be considered, and since your Grace gives me liberty to write to you with freedom upon this important point, I must say I am confirmed in the opinion that I had in 1706 when I was in place, and afterwards in 1709 when out of place, that it is our interest and that of all the Protestant States to get out of this ruinous war as soon as we can with safety and honour, and I am more fixed in this judgment by observing how often and how industriously a good peace has been thrust from us, and what is more, but the consequence of the former, how often the Queen and the nation have been in imminent danger and miraculously rescued.

There is nothing plainer than that the outcry against a peace at this time is raised by the art and cunning of some who are against any peace, and others who are angry so good a peace may be made by those persons they do not like. Your Grace's penetration easily sees this and much more than I can suggest.

I will add one thing more, that no honest or wise man will take upon him the consequences which will follow the defeating this opportunity, for if the arts or restlessness of any here should wrest this treaty out of the Queen's hands, there will be a peace, but such a one whenever it is as Britain will have no share in either of honour, safety or profit.

This is so clear, even as the sun at noon, that no man or party of men will be able to stand the clamours which will attend such a fatal step; the utter ruin of all stocks and credit, and the defeating the nation's hopes will have consequences I dread to think upon. You see the trouble your Grace's indulgence has drawn upon yourself. I protest solemnly I write from the bottom of my heart, and I beseech you to do me the justice to believe that I am with the utmost respect, &c.

Postscript—.I shall be glad to attend your Grace any morning about eleven at your own house when you please to command me.

I return your Grace thanks for the honour you did me to call here. I am ashamed you gave yourself that trouble. *Copy.*

The Duke of Buckinghamshire to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, December 1—At my return last night I found a great favour and a good Speech; so very good a one that I believe it out of anybody's power to mend it. The trifling literal alterations which you will find in my hand are rather to shew my regard to anything recommended by your Lordship than to give the least help, farther than by saving you the trouble of making them yourself.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, December 2—Lord Somers and I have intended for three or four days together to desire the honour of waiting on your Lordship, but he is really very much out of order and in pain. Lord Wharton always makes bold with some of his friends, but when you shall be informed of a certain negotiation now on foot and what treatment it has met with, you will judge better of the sincerity of our professions. I would beg the honour of another letter from you, in which you would desire and name a time of meeting at Lord Somers's, as soon as you please, and, if there have been any offers of a Bill against Occasional Conformity, begin to speak of that.

J. Toland to the Lord Treasurer.

1711, December 3—The difficulty of access I meet with to your person, and finding myself abandoned as it were in my greatest need, makes me fear that either your Lordship has received some sinister impression against me in a town so abounding with scandal, or that you are under a necessity from some quarter or other to throw me quite off. I earnestly beseech your Lordship to rid me of these doubts this evening.

LORD CREWE, BISHOP OF DURHAM, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, December 4. Steane [Northants]—The honour of your Lordship's commands last post should oblige me to a ready obedience, if old age and the depth of winter would allow my trying the experiment of such a hasty journey. If I know my own heart it is brim full of loyalty and fidelity to the Queen, of unfeigned sincerity for the Church, and of a steady adhering to the Constitution; all which, with concern I now perceive by your Lordship, will violently be pushed in matters of the greatest moment. And therefore, though I cannot so suddenly give my personal attendance in Parliament, yet that I may not seem, in such a critical juncture, to decline a service I have hitherto espoused with a more than ordinary zeal, I will presume to appear by proxy at the time desired; in order to which I have here enclosed a temporal one, with a space in it, for your Lordship, if you please, to insert the name of such a Peer as you shall judge most proper. By this your Lordship sees how great a confidence I have in your integrity for the public good.

[The EARL OF KINNOULL to his son LORD DUPPLIN.]

1711, December 3. Edinburgh—George, you sit in London and prescribe impossibilities to we poor worms in Scotland, you order me to adjust that affair of [Stewart of] Appin's, to see this Commission settled, and be at London against the seventh day of this month, and behold if I had not been here your letters could not have been at Dupplin till the 26th of the last month, so that I had only twelve days to do all this. It is your own fault otherwise I should have been at London a fortnight ago, but I believe if it had not been this Commission you would have got few more. This comes with the flying packet which brings as many proxies as could be got ready, the rest will be sent by the Justice Clerk when they come up. The Earl of Home I reckon will be with you before the Parliament sit down, I must confess he is as discreet as any. He says, the devil take him if it were not his circumstances that he has an old family to preserve, if he had but as much money as to maintain him at London he would serve the Queen without asking a farthing, he has so good will to the work. He spent a great deal last time and I believe some taken on upon tick, and I am told it was with the greatest difficulty imaginable that he could get credit for one hundred pounds or two; and I believe really he has but one along with him. Wherefore I pray you by all means take care that he be supplied and that timely. I did promise to recommend him heartily to my Lord Treasurer, and it is upon the faith of that that he is gone up, otherwise you had not seen him at this bout. Therefore I again recommend it to my Lord Mar and you to see that he be looked after, for I doubt he shall not be able to wait till I come up.

I hope to-morrow or next day the Commissioners of Trade shall all be in town and sit except my good Lord Annandale, and next day set out for London, this is what they resolve, and though I have been very ill since I came to Edinburgh with the gout both in hand and foot, yet I hope to be at London as soon as any of them that goes in coach, bar the gout. I ordered Gilbert Stewart to send up three pieces of wine but behold he has sent but two, the wine is bottled and put in six casks. If you have a good dry close cellar cause take them to your cellar, but for your life taste a drop of it till I come up. I have

told the Treasurer that he has forgot to send instructions to Ochtertyre how to proportion that money amongst the Clans. I know it has been nothing but forgetfulness amongst the hurry of business, but pray take care that it be done immediately, otherwise that whole affair will stop. I have now sent a list of the Clans and of their proportions to the Treasurer, lest perhaps he has lost the old one.

The Earl of Kinnoull to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, December 3. Edinburgh—As for Stewart of Appin I delivered him your Lordship's letters both to himself and Maitland, and the parchment, but we could say nothing till Sir Patrick came to town; but behold now when he is come, we find that he has got no instructions from you to whom that money is to be given, who of the Clans and what proportion every one of them is to have, so that you will be pleased with the very first to send your particular directions; and lest the list of the Clans and the particular sums every one of them was to have has fallen by, I have sent you enclosed a double of it which I received from Stewart of Appin, and as he says is exactly what was agreed to and I think it is the same that I saw at London. However Appin is resolved immediately to go and carry the parchment to have it signed by the Clans and does not doubt but Sir Patrick will have your full instructions before he can have it perfected.

As for the Commission of Trade and Chamberlainrie generally everybody approves of it. But what you have writ to my Lord Annandale I cannot imagine, but he declines to accept and will not so much as come to town to talk to his friends about it, though he was again and again writ to both by the Justice Clerk and myself. I waited upon him at his own house in the country but two days before the Commission came, and I thought I left him in the best humour imaginable. I told him your Lordship had, a post or two before I came from home, told me that he was first in that Commission and that that was only till better things were provided for him which would be done very soon. He seemed then to be satisfied, but what arguments have induced him now to so mistaken a measure I cannot fathom. But give me leave to tell you the truth which I always must do, everybody that wishes well to the Commission is pleased that he has not accepted. All the rest of the Commissioners are come to town except Northesk and Haddo whom we expect to-morrow, and then they are resolved to qualify themselves, sit once, and next day make all dispatch they can for London. I have been very ill of the gout since I came to town yet I hope to be as soon off as any of them. I am sure I shall make all the dispatch I can, and in the meantime we have sent you all the proxies that could be got ready by this flying packet, which we hope will be with you against the sitting down of the Parliament. I believe the Earl of Home will be with you against the sitting down of the Parliament. I hope you will make him welcome. I believe, poor man, he has but a very light purse along with him. I beg of your Lordship take care of him.

[The Rev. William Carstares to the Earl of Oxford.]

[1711, December 3]—Though my Lord there be some things in my Lord Advocate's letter to me which I have just now received, and do presume to lay it before your Lordship, that are of little moment, yet

seeing it is of such a nature as your Lordship will find it to be, I did conceive it was more proper to lay it before your Lordship as it is wrote to me, than to trouble your Lordship with scraps of it, though if it should be known that my Lord Advocate writes of such affairs to me, and that I take the liberty to lay them before your Lordship, some here that are your Lordship's faithful servants and who honour me too, I hope, with their friendship would have jealousies of me.

Pardon me my Lord if I say that I shall be uneasy till your Lordship shall honour me with a further account of that impertinent sermon of one of our ministers in Scotland, for though I can sincerely say that your Lordship's honour and satisfaction are dear to me, yet in that matter I cannot but consider the quiet of her Majesty's government as well as the credit and security of the church of Scotland, for it may be of bad consequence if that minister hath been encouraged to that extravagant freedom by any, who though they may be no enemies to our church yet may be so drowned in a party as to sacrifice our interest to their humour and resentment, though I cannot but say that I found none such in our late Assembly. But if your Lordship shall think fit to leave this matter to my management I would endeavour to have such extravagancies, so destructive to us and so pleasing to our enemies, checked in the beginning by having that minister rebuked by his presbytery. Pardon my lord my encroaching so much upon your Lordship's valuable time.

Enclosure.

Sir James Stewart, Lord Advocate, to Mr. William Carstares, at Mr. John Campbell's, goldsmith, at the three Crowns in the Strand, London.

1711, November 27—I have yours of the 20th instant and had one at the same time from Baron Scrope which I shall answer as soon as I can. We are all much obliged to his kindness. As for the affair of Dumbreek I am of your opinion, for albeit in my advice to the magistrates of Aberdeen and in my monitory to him I was very positive upon the laws that we have so clear against such practices and innovations, yet all my design was to persuade, for I am satisfied that to push the execution would but turn upon us to our greater prejudice. I am very well satisfied that Providence hath ordered your being there at this time, for I know you will advert to this poor church's interest which is but ill "friend-sted" there.

I hope you have received that draft of a proclamation you desired of me, but I am doubtful it be agreed to, though it contain nothing but what is expressly warranted by law. As for Mr. Blackwell's going to London he first proposed to me that Aberdeen should have some person there to defend against Burnet, Gairns, and Dumbreek, and my answer was that these affairs were not yet carried up and that if it should come to that event I hoped the town would find an agent there upon less expense than to send one. But within two days thereafter he told me he was purposed to go himself, and I seeing him so fully resolved could not oppose him, but since it was so I could not refuse any assistance he craved of me, so you must make the best of it you can, and I hope God shall direct you both. I see that albeit there be a reference made to me about Mr. Freebairn's gift, yet since Secretary St. John is positive that Freebairn's gift must be maintained I think Mrs. Anderson's friends are cooler in the quarrelling of it. As for the affair of the tacksmen, it hath been before the Exchequer,

and their plea upon the Act of Indemnity hath been debated and our Barons have split upon it, the Chief Baron and Baron Dalrymple judged them not comprehended but the other two judged them to be comprehended, so Baron Scrope or my Lord Treasurer will have the casting vote; and though I think their plea very absurd, yet I shall be satisfied it be maintained, for I have a kindness for the men and am likewise of the mind that any thing got from them on this occasion will turn to no good account, but you will shortly see Dean of Gild Warrender and Robert Rutherfoord, two of them that are gone this day for London upon a call from Carnwath's Commission.

I am to send to my Lord Treasurer this night a double of my charge or libel against young Arnistoun. I wot not if I shall send it under your cover, for if Mr. Kennedy, Keeper of the Signet, do not assure me that my letter to you shall be free I cannot burden you with it. However we have got down a commission of Chamberlainry to eight persons, viz.: the Marquis of Annandale, the Earls of Eglinton and Northesk, the Lords Haddo and Balmerino, and three gentlemen, Bannockburn, Auchtertyre and Stenhope younger. I have seen it, and it seems to be principally for the regulating and improving of trade and manufactures, disposing of the 2,000*l.* yearly for our loss upon the export of wool, the regulating of "metts" and measures and for noticing the state of our boroughs. I observed that the draft was defective because though it named the place yet it doth not name the day of their first meeting, but that is supplied by advertisements, then it has a doubtful clause of which commissioners at their meetings, the first on the Commission shall precede which made some think that it made the Marquis of Annandale *sine qua non*, but I and others understand it, that in every meeting the first named in the Commission there present should precede. Then it wants a power to the Commissioners to name their clerk and other officers, and so the Clerk Register will have the naming of their clerk if it be not overruled. Then it wants the clause ordering letters to be directed upon their sentences, but these are only common observes, that made my Lord Justice Clerk and me wish such Commissions were first advised here, but I think I may add to you for it may be fit my Lord Treasurer should know all that is said. First it is thought that the eight persons are oddly chosen and as some say either to serve a turn or to be gratified, for they are not all of them so qualified for such a commission; then it is much noticed that it revives the office of Chamberlainry and gives them in general all the powers jurisdiction and privileges belonging to that office, which were indeed very great over all the burghs of Scotland, and such as if managed as they may be, may easily overrule all our elections from boroughs to the Parliament, and whether the Commons may notice it or not you may best consider. For my part I take the office of Chamberlainry to be only made use of to give a rise to the commission for the special ends and uses therein appointed, but if it shall be farther extended it may be mistaken, and these things I only write you that my Lord Treasurer may know what passes, for I am willing to put the best construction on it I can, and to waive these exceptions; but now you will think strange to hear that the Marquis of Annandale positively refuses to accept, this I have seen under his hand although it be reported that all the Commissioners are to have a very large allowance, but he is truly angry for being so long "evened" to be Register and now disappointed. All I add is that if this fall to be a vacancy pray let it be well supplied and even in such a manner as may remove

many men's jealousies on this occasion. You know what I mean and you may be pleased to let me know my Lord Treasurer's mind as to any thing may be expected from me, for I see the commission refers to the Advocate's and Solicitor's advice. I must give this long letter a coat though it should cost you a shilling as yours cost me, but pray speak likewise to Baron Scrope how this may be helped for it is hard that the Queen's servants should pay for their letters which they were never in use to do before.

Postscript.—When places are given so liberally I wish you would remember our friend Mr. Mure. I have sent my letter directly to my Lord Treasurer.

Ker of Kersland to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, December 4. London—My present circumstances oblige me to return to your feet for some present support, and if you will allow me to owe my preservation to your justice and goodness I promise on my part sincere endeavours to approve myself worthy of this favour, being hopeful in a little time by the present kind endeavours of my friends in Scotland to have my affairs there brought to such an order as not to be any more burdensome to the Government.

William Penn to the Earl of Oxford.

1711, December 6—I am heartily sorry I am now good for nothing. 'Twas otherways in former days, and if I could think so too, I would not send this; but for thy sake as much as my own I wish for a few moments, and for poor England's also. A man may be too close as well as too free; right timing everything is best. Thou art a great genius and therefore a great judge, and I am thy faithful friend.

[Lord Halifax to the Earl of Oxford.]

1711, December 6—If I had been so happy to think of any expedient to prevent the straits we are falling into I would have offered my thoughts to your Lordship, being determined to serve you in every thing consistent with my judgment and my honour, and since you seem to be desirous of it, I will rather offer at something, though it may be very wrong, than not act as a friend. You know best your own calculation, but according to mine there will be a majority in our House against the terms of peace offered by France. If that be so, why should Lord Treasurer struggle and labour that point, he has been willing to hearken to proposals of peace, he has communicated them to the Allies, invited them to meet and consider of the terms, gone hand in hand with Holland in the steps that have been made; if their Lordships think the nation in a condition to insist on higher demands, and that their resolutions will obtain them, he wishes it as much as anybody. If you thought it not improper to turn the debate in this manner, you would remove the difficulties from yourself, leave room for reasonable measures, and throw the blame of extravagant ones on others. I am sensible of the presumption and folly of this, but you have drawn it on yourself, and you will excuse the excess of my zeal to help you off in a difficult affair, and pray let my folly go no further, and burn this paper.

J. Toland to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, December 7—I am ignorant, as I told you t'other day, whom you meant by my particular friends that are against the peace; but of this I am sure that all my acquaintance are unanimous in their sentiments. Particular friends in this case I have none, but the house of Hanover; and, though a good peace be a good thing, we are persuaded no peace can be good for their interest at this time; and much less any peace that gives up Spain and the Indies to a Prince of the house of Bourbon, or to any French Prince whatsoever. This, but not the spirit of any party, nor partiality to any ministry, is the ground of our opposition. I therefore conjure your Lordship by all the friendship I entertain and profess for you, to consider whether it be advisable in any minister to carry on a thing so perfectly disgusting to the next successor? and I beseech you to permit me—as your most sincere well-wisher—freely to tell you that a clandestine negotiation with France sounds very ill to English ears, even in times of the profoundest peace. I have been so much amazed, on the one hand, at the circumstances of this transaction from the beginning, and I have had so much confidence in your Lordship, on the other hand, as looking upon you to be most true to the succession, that I made myself and others too believe, the whole was a trick upon the French King and the high church; and that, as soon as the public money was all granted, you would on very good pretexts break with both of them, and be the author of a happy coalition between the true friends of their country, which are the moderate Whigs and the moderate Tories. Several of both these denominations have, from time to time, made application to me, to convey their thoughts to you; which I wholly declined when I found such difficulties of access and speech, as judging my good offices were not agreeable. Among the rest a person of undoubted credit with the Whigs, and that undertook—without presumption—for the leaders, proposed about two months ago this scheme, which I took in writing from his own mouth. 1. A coalition, wherein the late Treasurer and Lord Sunderland should be left for some time unemployed by consent; and where your own figure should not only be chief, but be continued so, as a security whereof the balance of the Parliament should be put into your hands. 2. Present dissolution of this Parliament, which might be time enough for the year's service, witness the last Parliament of King William; that the qualifying act passed last sessions would throw out at least a hundred; besides that the heats about Sacheverell being quite allayed, and such a number of hotheads disappointed by this ministry, there would not be so much money spent now on that side. 3. Pretexts for the dissolution various, especially that the moneyed people will never trust this Parliament. 4. A certain number of moderate Tories named in conjunction with whom the Whigs were willing to act. And so he concluded, that the present ministry miscarrying, you must be ruined of course, all being imputed to your Lordship as a single minister; whereas, on the foot of this scheme, others will be answerable, as well as yourself, for any measures that shall be taken. This message I peremptorily refused to carry, for the reasons above said; but told the person—whose name shall be mentioned if you desire it, according to the permission he gave me—that if your Lordship intended any such thing, I was of opinion the proper time would be after this Parliament should grant the year's charge; for then their falling into heats about the peace, or reviving the high-church projects against

the dissenters, a misunderstanding upon any score between both Houses, or something else that may break out by chance or contrivance, would serve as better pretexts for a dissolution, and beget a better disposition in the electors, who understand nothing, at least very few of them, concerning credit, though in itself a most essential point. Many other representations of no less importance I was entirely discouraged from offering; and had you given me the hearing, the world should never have seen his Electoral Highness's Memorial. Don't you now find by experience that what I wrote to you about that Court near a twelvemonth since is exactly true. Instead then of your Priors and your Swifts, you ought to dispatch me privately this minute to Hanover; where you'll find me as secret, as I hope to be successful. In my judgment it imports you not a little, were it but for the Queen's service, to clear up some things there. If you are of the same opinion I know Holland so exactly as to engage my life on passing and repassing unobserved; giving out here that I am retired somewhere into the country. I need say no more but that as my interest is inseparable from that family [of Hanover], so none upon earth wishes better to your particular person.

LEOPOLD, DUKE OF LORRAINE, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, December [7-]18, N.S. Luneville—Urging that he should be allowed to send one of his ministers to the coming peace congress, as it appears some objection will be raised thereto as the Duke is not a belligerent party; he had however suffered great losses, having been driven out of his capital when it was garrisoned by the French at the beginning of the war, and his subjects were much injured by the continual marches and counter-marches of the French army across his country.

French.

DR. R[OBERT] FREIND to MR. [EDWARD] HARLEY at Christ Church, Oxford.

[1711,] December 9—Lord Carteret and Col. Trelawny spent an evening with me this week and you had your share in our discourse and our talks. My Lord's matrimony sits very well upon him as you'll easily guess, *omnes decuit color et status*. He is very eager to have you in the world, and wonders why you were not in this Parliament. The Colonel is going abroad very soon, he desires to come and take leave at Christ Church, but I think the Bishop will scarcely part with him. The Dean came to town last night in a very ill condition extremely weak and a little disordered in his head. Dr. Radcliffe has been with him to-day, but I believe he has very little hopes of him. I have not seen him yet but intend to wait on him as soon as 'tis proper for any company to be admitted to him, for I have had many obligations to him and have a hearty respect and concern for him. 'Tis probable the journey may have disturbed him a little, and after a day or two's rest he may be better. We hear to-day that Lord Lempster is dead, Tory Lords drop apace. There was an odd division to-day in the House of Commons upon Sir Peter King's motion for balloting for elections, 'twas thrown out by 250 to 38. The gentleman that insisted upon a division said he did it to show he was never ashamed to have

it appear what side he was of, which was thought a good argument against the question he was for. I have been twice or thrice to wait on Lord Dupplin, but he is such attender on public business that he is not to be seen.

W———, Bishop of Worcester to the Earl of Oxford.

1711, December 12—It is about two months since that I happened to meet a relation of your Lordship's, Mr. Foley, the Prothonotary, at his borough of Droitwich. There, falling into discourse of the news, he told me we had now great hopes of a very good and lasting peace. I told him that to have a lasting peace at this time, I thought, was impossible. He said that such a peace there would be, he had reason to believe, for he had it from very good hands; and, upon my asking from whom, he named your Lordship. I could not but tell him, as I have done all others upon speaking of your Lordship, that I had a great honour for you ever since you shewed that great instance of your courage and zeal for the Protestant religion, at that time when there was so great a trial of it in King James's labouring to bring the Presbyterians into an alliance with the Papists for the destroying of the Church of England as by law established, which wicked design of his, however it prevailed elsewhere, you opposed with great success in all those parts where your interest lay; as also some few other gentlemen did in other parts of the kingdom. Thereupon he also told me that he had heard you speak of me as one that he had a great esteem for, which I took with all due acknowledgments.

And then we went on with the news, of which he asked me why I thought such a peace at this time was impossible.

I told him I thought it was impossible we should have a long lasting peace at this time, when we are certainly within a very few years of the beginning of that war of religion which will last till the final destruction of Pope and Popery. He asked me how I knew this. I told him from the prophecies of the Holy Scriptures, which I would shew him if he pleased. And thereupon I went to fetch my Bible, which I always carry with me, and it was then in the next room. But when I came thither my company, which was of the clergy that came thither to a confirmation, were breaking up, and just going. Whereupon I came back to beg Mr. Foley's patience to stay a little longer there, or to come and discourse of these matters with me at Hartlebury. But he told me he was just now going to Gloucestershire; and so we parted, which indeed was on my part very unwillingly, for I would gladly have shown him those things which he might have shown your Lordship at his coming to London. They were such as I believed might have stopped that speed with which your Lordship is said to be advancing in this negotiation.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Ld. Bp. of Worcester, Prophecy."

Dr. Francis Atterbury to ———.

1711, December 14—I think myself obliged to acquaint you with what I have learnt from sure hands, since I waited on you this morning:—that the Archbishop yesterday was more moderate and in temper than any of the Bishops, and seemed prepared to do anything that was fit and reasonable; and publicly said, that he was for laying asleep all former differences and proceeding upon business—so that what you

have said to him has certainly had its effect, and if pursued, may at last gain him perhaps and divide him from the rest of his body, though I doubt not that this very day all hands are at work to dispose the Archbishop to approve the violent measures of his brethren.

The Earl of Orrery to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, December 16—Since your Lordship was pleased to desire my opinion in relation to what you hinted to me in the House of Lords about the Duke of Ar[gyll] I have had my thoughts upon that matter, and some discourse with his brother upon it too, who agrees with me in judgment that to have my Lord M[arlboroug]h's regiment of Foot Guards in exchange for the troop he has at present will be of advantage to him in several respects and ought to be pleasing to him. I take it for granted your Lordship intended to have my opinion about this affair in the manner I have stated it, though you did not express yourself in plain and positive terms to me in it. I should have been very glad to have had half an hour's conversation with your Lordship alone any time since I came to town. I have endeavoured very often to find your Lordship at home, but have not had the good fortune once either upon your public days or any other to meet with you there, but I hope you will give me leave to wait upon you at some appointed time as soon as you have any leisure, and in that confidence I will trouble your Lordship no further at present than to beg I may not be forgot when the pay of the General Officers in Flanders is ordered. I cannot think myself in any danger in this case but from not being remembered, for I hear since I came home that my Lord Marl[boroug]h has omitted me in his warrant and I should hope that omission itself in the present circumstances of our affairs, if I had no other title, would give me no inconsiderable pretension.

Cameron of Lochiel, and others to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, December [19-]30, N.S. Barcelona—Sending my Lord Forbes express to her Majesty with the good news of our late success near Cordova, which has so much changed affairs that if troops and money are sent in time, I think much may be hoped from next year. I need only refer your Lordship to him for what I have humbly to represent at present with relation to this service.

Cameron of Lochiel and others to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, December 20. Fort William—We being most sensible of your Lordship's good and effectual endeavours in procuring her Majesty's mark of favour to us, as also your most generous assistance to our consign the Laird of Appine in his representation of our sufferings for our constant adhering to the royal family and our dutiful offer of loyalty to her sacred Majesty, whereby we are taken to her Majesty's protection, do most humbly and cordially address your Lordship with our hearty thanks and acknowledgments.

We presume to put in mind of Sir Ewan Cameron of Lochiel, elder, who served her Majesty's ancestors personally and with his following, since her Majesty's gratuity is to his son.

Signed by:—Alex. McDonell of Glengarie, McKieson of Cluny, Ro. Stewart of Appine, Mcdonell , Clanranald, John McLeod of Cantelith, Tutor of McLeod, Mcdougall of Dounollich, D. (?) Mackdonald, E. Camerone of Locheill, younger, Jo. McKinnon.

[Daniel] De Foe to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711, December 20—I confess myself so much surprised with the particulars which your Lordship did me the honour to communicate to me on Tuesday of the conduct of a set of men with respect to the Dissenters, that I could not express myself on several things needful to be observed to you on the occasion, which defect according to the freedom you are pleased to allow me I supply in this manner:—

And first, in the midst of my real and just concern for the interest of the Dissenters, which I look upon as ruined, I cannot but look up with thankfulness in your behalf that the mouths of your enemies are most effectually stopped in offering to lay the reproach of their disaster upon your Lordship which is most apparently the effect of an implacable, but I hope impotent, aversion to you and of a manifest resolution to injure and insult you. Had it not been too late to retrieve the injury I should have rejoiced also in behalf of the Dissenters, that the idols they adored have appeared capable of so mean a step as to sell the party that ventured their safety on the leaky bottom of a supposed zeal into perpetual Tory bondage to form a new interest for the supporting their party designs, but this joy is like singing a Psalm at a funeral, too sad to be sonorous.

As you have for the sake of a little sincerity borne with a great deal of coarse and unpolished plainness from me, indulging a freedom which I have no title to but from your own goodness, so I beg you to bear with one humble motion in behalf of an interest, which I know your Lordship has been a patron of, which has been valued by you, and which though the usage of some of the people to you has been inexcusable yet I am fully persuaded you have still at heart; I mean that of the Dissenters.

There remains but one point between them and the fate of their whole cause, viz.: her Majesty passing or not passing the bill; I know the negative is not without its hazard, and many watch the advantage. But her Majesty has solemnly passed her Royal promise to the Dissenters to preserve the toleration inviolable. I know my duty too well to enter on any argument on the consistency of passing this bill with the keeping this promise, yet I could not satisfy myself, neither in duty to the Dissenters' interest, or the immediate interest of your Lordship, without humbly moving you in this case, viz.: how effectually it would bind to your interest, and to her Majesty's person and government and to all your just measures, the whole body of the Dissenters, and Low Churchmen also who are as ill pleased as any. How effectually it would bring in those very people who have suffered this chicane of a party to be passed upon them and are raging with shame and confusion at what they have done. How effectually it would rivet your Lordship in the hearts of all good men, silence past unjust clamours, and powerfully establish your Lordship as the protector of liberty, the patron of justice, and the true refuge of an injured people; all this I firmly believe with a blessing from Heaven, would be the consequence, if her Majesty in maintenance of her sacred promise aforesaid, may be advised to refuse this bill.

God Almighty give your Lordship wisdom, and counsel from Himself to direct in an affair of so nice but important consequences, so as may issue in His Glory, your own blessing, and an innocent people's deliverance; asking pardon for this freedom.

NICHOLAS DAVIES to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, December 21. London—I waited on the Earl of Derby on Tuesday, and he asked me if I had left the "Isleman," because he had not heard of any complaints lately. I told his Lordship I had still a pledge there, my family, but I had not been there lately. His Lordship acquainted me that in Scotland he heard there were wines, brandy, silks, and East India goods landed, and not the complaint, as against the "Isleman," nor the officers there so exact as Mr. Davies. I begged his Lordship to believe that my actions were always without prejudice both to his Lordship and his island. He told me he had signed an act for preventing of frauds to the Crown, and supposed it was in force before this time, but if the Government would not do something in favour of us the people will not be long easy with it.

His Lordship then talked some time of his mines there and some other private affairs, after which was pleased to say that he heard of a report that he should be offered 50,000*l.* for the "Isleman." I said I never heard anything like it but from the Bishop of Man when in town, but the Government would make a great purchase at that rate; were the island mine I should be thankful for 40,000*l.*, for when that fraudulent trade is effectually prevented I believe your Lordship will not make 1,500*l.* per annum there according to the currency of money, which will not be much more than 1,400*l.* here. No, said he, what loss do you believe I shall sustain by altering the manner of trade—at least 800*l.* per annum. How, said he, do you not then think it is reasonable I should have an equivalent for it?—my Lord, I hope you will. He desired me when I heard that the Board was acquainted with it from the Officer in the Island I would let him know; he did expect copies over from thence and then he had thoughts of waiting on the Lord Treasurer about it.

WILLIAM PENN to the LORD TREASURER.

1171, December 24—Hearing what company dines with thee I enclose the state of the case of the claimants of Sir William Courteen, and beg thy mention of it to the "Heir De Buis," for they are ready with some men of war to reprise themselves. I am not insensible of present circumstances and press it upon thee that some hint and care may be taken about it—which closes this from thy most respectful friend.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, December 26—The first part of the Session is over, in which there has appeared a scene quite new, and unexpected, and which does deserve your Lordship's serious consideration. I am not sure that I should be able to assist you by my advice, in the measures you shall take, you can judge best of my power to serve you, but I was unwilling to omit renewing my assurances, that I do sincerely desire to promote

the good of my country in your Lordship's hands, rather than struggle for it, any other way, which is less natural, more difficult and must prove less effectual. Pardon this frankness, and simplicity, the natural effect of a heart truly zealous for the Queen's service, and the public good, and tied by great civilities to your interest. You know best whether matters are in such a disposition that my waiting on you would be of use, if you please command me, if not accept of my good wishes that you may have a happy Christmas, and many of them.

ROBERT GREEN to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1711, December 26. Clare Hall [,Cambridge]—Referring to his petition to his Lordship for the honour of prefixing his name to the writer's Principles of Philosophy.

VISCOUNT HEREFORD to SIR ROBERT PRICE, Baron of the Exchequer.

1711, December 27. Vaynor—Last post I had the honour to receive yours of the 22nd instant and give you many thanks for it. I own I did design to stay my Christmas in the country, but now finding things are working to such a height I am resolved to make all the haste up I can, and will take the first convenience of a coach I can meet with either at Salop or Worcester. I must believe the Whigs will muster all the strength and forces they have to defend their great men and leaders; but 'tis a mystery of iniquity to me to find so many Bishops to run in with 'em. I think the number of '61 are playing the game of '41, for then they divested the King of his sovereignty and afterwards took up arms against him for his safety. There is one part of a prophecy relating to a noble D[uke] behind, and if such great sums of money are proved upon him, as mentioned in the votes of the House of Commons, it may be fulfilled in a short time. I pray God discover all the enemies of our peace and bring them to condign punishment. If I can pick up a few pence I'll set out on Monday next, though I have considerable business to keep me in the country, as settling of my daughter, there being a treaty on foot between the Lord Darcy's son and her.

There is nothing in your letter that can prejudice either the writer or reader, for 'tis all matter of fact and well-becoming the zeal of an Englishman, but notwithstanding all that your commands about it shall be observed by me.

J[OHN] VANBRUGH to ————

1711, December 27. Whitehall—I here enclose to you the bill I desired t'other day you would take a proper time to show my Lord Treasurer. It was last year put into Mr. Secretary St. John's hands by my late Lord Rochester and my Lord Chamberlain [Duke of Kent], but it being the end of the session he thought it too late to offer to the House. My preparing of it was from an order of the House of Lords. If my Lord Treasurer approves of it as it is, or with any additions or alterations he shall think fit to direct, I will solicit it what I can; but unless it be espoused by the Court and recommended to the Queen's servants to take some care of, I doubt the streets may remain as they are.

SIR M[ICHAEL] WARTON to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1711, December 28—I was crawled out unfortunately when your letter came, or else had immediately answered before I went out. I received one from my Lord Dartmouth about the same business and in answer to him desired him to excuse me*, as I do now to your Lordship. I am grown old and infirm and it will be the greatest kindness to excuse me, and I expect it from your kindness. Pray, my Lord, put this business by, and I shall ever esteem it as the greatest favour you can bestow on me.

LORD HARLEY to [his father the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, December 30. Christ Church [Oxford.]—I came here very well last night about five. I had a very narrow escape, the coach was overturned going down Stoken Church hill. I walked, those that sat in the coach were very much bruised and their faces cut. The Dean received me very graciously, I am to have my degree on Wednesday, the University Orator being ill the Dean will do me the honour to present me. I believe it will be Friday before I can leave this place. Dr. Stratford, Dr. Gastrell, and Dr. Freind come up with me.

W. BROMLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1171, December 30—Last night I discoursed Sir Thomas Hanmer but cannot fix him to anything. He professes (and I am convinced he is sincere in it) an entire satisfaction in the measures you are taking for our common good and safety, and that he is willing to come into the Queen's service when it shall be thought necessary. He does not apprehend it to be so at present, and had rather it was deferred at least till the end of the session. He is not nice as to any employment that your Lordship and his friends can think proper for him, but he could not see it would be of any service to the public to have him a sinecure. If he was to have an employment, he should not have regard to the profit or difficulty of it, but should like that best in which he might be most useful; with much more to this effect, from which you can best tell what judgment is to be framed.

I saw Col. Graham yesterday, and taking notice to him of his letter to you he says that you, and the Queen too, have given him hopes of some relief. I find he wants a little money to stay certain proceedings until he can by selling raise enough to clear with his creditors. His son is a great burthen and expense to him.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711, December 31—I received the letter you were pleased to honour me with at dinner abroad and could not answer it sooner. I must own I am in a most desponding way, till very lately I thought it was in your Lordship's power to save this nation, but I have now doubts of that. However since you think there is one way left, pray let me

* From being raised to the peerage, as one of the twelve new peers created just after this date. See two letters of Warton on the same subject printed on pp. 308, 309 of the report on the Earl of Dartmouth's Manuscripts. (Eleventh Report, Appendix, Part V.)

know it. I have the same inclination to serve the Queen and my country, the same disposition impartially to pursue that end, though less hopes of attaining it. I desire you would let me know when I shall wait upon you, and I think no time should be lost.

The Same to the Same.

Same date—Since your Lordship commands me to have it so, I will attend you at my house all to-morrow morning, and shall be very ready to explain anything to you that makes me think it so difficult even for your Lordship to save us. I have no engagements, nor no inclinations, but to make you the instrument of our quiet and of our safety, if I can be any way serviceable in so good a work.

[George Granville to the Earl of Oxford.]

[1711, December]—Though I lost my opportunity to-day I hope to have better fortune on Saturday, according to your commands, but in the mean time there is one particular which I find myself under a necessity to prepare you for, though with the utmost confusion.

I took a very great burden upon me in the last elections, too great for a private man with a private fortune. I went through it successfully, but it cost me above four thousand pounds, of which there remains still a debt upon me of fifteen hundred.

Your Lordship was pleased to assure me the charge, whatever it might happen to be, should be answered to me, but however I never could bring myself to give you any trouble about it, and rather chose to sell three hundred pounds a year in the annuities than mention it to you. But now being in a very few days to change my condition, though very much to my advantage, yet a new expense and a considerable one is created at the first entrance, and being thrown so far back for the present by my expenses in the Queen's service, I find myself pressed to apply myself to you to be reimbursed at least some part of that charge. Your Lordship may judge how unwillingly I make this application, by my never doing it before, nor could anything have brought me to it, unless you had first mentioned it yourself, but an absolute necessity.

I now recommend the consideration of it to you with so much confusion that I am satisfied if I had not written it I should not have been able to have spoken it when I have the honour to see you.

Postscript.—The Duke of Beaufort came to town this night, your Lordship will find some way to make him your compliments.

Henry St. John to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1711, December ?]—I send you Mr. de Torcy's letter to me with Mr. de Borais' to him and wish your Lordship joy of the contents.

I shall keep my word with the Queen and entirely dispatch Lord Strafford and Lord Orrery to-morrow; might not Prior be gone by Friday or Saturday? must not Duke Hamilton go away next week?

We must conclude now *coute ce qu'il coute,* I hope by Friday to give you further accounts of Beaulieu's negotiation.

The Marchioness of Dorchester to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1711]—How unreasonable soever it is, Duke Hamilton has got the Queen's promise to keep both Garters. You see his confidence will not let him lose his time at Windsor, but I hope you will interpose and prevail with her Majesty not to satisfy his vanity this singular way, it being a novelty must meet with a general disapprobation from the English, and is the only thing, as the Queen was pleased to tell my Lord last night, hindered her complying with his desire. I would lose no time in acquainting your Lordship with this, believing that whether you shall think fit to move the Queen to withdraw her promise, or the Duke not to insist upon it, either way will more easily succeed before the matter is made more public.

Dr. H[enry] Sacheverell to the Earl of Oxford.

[1711?]—Your Lordship being pleased to say you would do me the great honour to take my sermon with you to St. James's I have procured one particularly bound for her Majesty, which I presume to put into your hands.

Petition from Birmingham.

[1711 ?]—The humble Petition of the inhabitants of the town of Birmingham in the county of Warwick.

The town of Birmingham being a market town of great trade and commerce is become very populous, and having but one church in it, which is not sufficient to contain the greater part of the inhabitants thereof, whereby they are deprived of the benefit of Divine service performed there, and the cemetery or churchyard being not large enough for the deceased persons to have decent burial, your Majesty at the humble suit of the said inhabitants was graciously pleased to pass an Act of Parliament [*See Commons' Journals*, 1709] for building another parish church and parsonage house, and making another churchyard in Birmingham aforesaid.

That the said inhabitants at their great expense, besides what has been contributed by some charitable and well disposed persons, have erected a church on a piece of ground that was generously given to them, but not being able to finish the same, so that Divine service may be performed therein—they do most humbly beseech your Majesty

That you would be pleased to grant to them some of the windfalls or dotard trees in your Forest of Whittlewood, or Needwood, or in any other your Majesty's Forests or Chaces, to be disposed of, to raise money for finishing the said church, or that your Majesty would in any other manner enable them to do it.

Sir Robert Price to the Earl of Oxford.

1711-12, January 1. Sergeants Inn—Enclosing letter from Lord Hereford of December 27, 1711 (*see* p. 132 *ante*).

I wish I had known sooner that he was not sent to. I was very pressing with him and more free in my letter than prudence or policy would justify me in, which explains the latter part of his letter.

Dr. Francis Atterbury to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, January 3. Christ Church—Lord Harley has left a place to which his memory will be ever dear. Everybody here has taken care to show how loth they were to part with him, nor has any instance of respect been wanting that could be paid to such a son of such a father. Dr. Gastrell tells me that he has left behind him a new proof of your liberality to Peckwater.

Richard Norton to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, January 8. Southwick by Petersfield bag—I did myself the honour to write to your Lordship very lately upon my hearing that the Queen had ordered a new creation of Barons. I took the liberty then to offer you my humble service at such a juncture, but if that were too late, then I beg leave to say that I should be most glad to serve you in the Upper House, for I will never go into the House of Commons more. I never made less of my estate than 4,000*l.* yearly, and can always do so; indeed the same had been done long since, but that I refused to give the sum for it (and that no great one) which was required by a courtier sent to me by the late King to acquaint me of his intentions of making me a Baron of England; and since that I have been married about twelve years and have no child, so that it can be of no importance to me (it being most probable I should only enjoy it for life) more than the putting me in a capacity of ever serving your Lordship, and that indeed I am the most ambitious of, and be assured nothing should alter me, and since I hear there are yet more Barons to be suddenly made, therefore I do so soon repeat my humble request to you that I may be one, and I will constantly endeavour to deserve that, and as much more as can be wished by your Lordship from me.

Earl Rivers to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, January 9—I design to go into the country to-morrow at twelve at noon, if I don't receive your commands to the contrary: and return on Saturday to have the honour to wait on you to dinner. The Duke of Ormond and I dined at Mr. St. John's Monday; I find by what passed there, he is so good natured, that he is easily influenced upon, and very ready to answer for people that I think would if it lay in their power undo all that has lately been brought to pass by your good management. Such as Harry Lumley are his favourites and several others, so that if you design anything in that kind, it must be settled otherwise and ordered by the Queen. I desire you will give me leave to speak to Mr. St. John to procure an order for a patent for Mr. Owsly for that part of Craggs' place which is in the Queen. The secretary and the clerk of the Deliveries have not been separated as I am informed this thirty years, but only at the latter end of Mr. Pulteney's time. He stayed some short time as clerk after he was put out of being secretary.

And as for Colonel Worsly for Ash's place, give me leave to say that there is not a man in the kingdom who has signalised himself more for the interest of the Queen and this Ministry than he has done. At Hanover, I am very certain that his behaviour there in justifying the Queen, your Lordship and the Ministry, as to the Peace, has lost him so much in that Court, that nothing but their coming to a right understanding can recover him. There is still two employments left which are Earle's,

and Mordaunt's: if there be difficulty in the former for Lord Barrymore I acquiesce, the latter I don't think of. I hope you will think it reasonable that since by the method of the payment of the Ordnance my Lord Marlborough is to be in pay till the first of April, I may keep mine of Constable till that time.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1711-12, January 10—When I am thanking your Lordship for the continuance of a bounty I cannot merit, I blame myself for the importunities I have used. But I hope for your pardon when I consider that really the treatment I meet with from a poor enraged people whose true interest I believe I serve, seems to recommend me to your compassion. God grant your Lordship victory over this new possession, for however I may fare while you hold the reins, I am sure to sink if anything happen to the prejudice of your interest. I have not the fewest years over my head of any man that observes these things, and I have seen many of these Court revolutions. But of all the outed parties that ever were seen, at least in the last fifty years, none ever pushed with so much fury at the Government who have dismissed them as these have done; nothing but downright taking arms can be like this, and I am persuaded only want of power restrains from the worst sort of violence. God that directs your Lordship I hope in all things has moved you no doubt to take this most necessary step of deposing the Idol man, who coveted to set himself up as the head of a party, and by whom they pretended to make themselves formidable. All wise men own the necessity, and applaud the wisdom of the step, and, if it be needful for her Majesty's safety to go on, I believe no man can think amiss that those who eat her Majesty's bread, should (when a threatening behaviour demands such a course) be left to know the want of it.

The small tract which I hinted to you in my last I send herewith, and as you were pleased to ask me if no way might be found out to open the eyes of these poor deluded people, the Dissenters, I doubt not, my Lord, but the fury and precipitation of their old supporters will be a proper means; and the exposing it for that purpose I make my business in order to help on their conviction, nor shall all their fury at me cause me to cease this method which I take to be the best service to you which lies in my power.

Postscript.—I omit my name by your order.

The Duke of Leeds to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, January 10—Asking for an employment for his son-in-law, Mr. Walpole, who had been at great expense in the recent election in Norfolk, and had steadily adhered to the Queen's interest in Parliament notwithstanding his temptations to the contrary, which was shown by his opposition to his nephew Walpole who had been a great leader in a contrary interest.

The States General to the Earl of Oxford.

1712, January [16-]27, N.S. The Hague—As Monsieur Buys has not failed to report to us the advantages he has gained by your support during his stay in England we take the liberty to recommend to you M. Philip Jacques de Borssele, Seigneur de Voorhoute and Senator of

Middelbourgh in Zealand, etc., whom we sent to her Majesty as Envoy Extraordinary to maintain and increase the good understanding and close union in which we have the honour to live with her, etc.

Signed by:—Johan de Weede and Fagel.

French.

The Duke of Hamilton to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, January 16—We are to have a meeting to-morrow at ten o'clock, when I shall acquaint the northern Peers with your Lordship's good intentions, I hope you can never doubt of our assisting those who will recover our misfortune. I return you many thanks for the honour you do me in saying what you have as to my share of it, but this being a general concern your Lordship shall know their sentiments after our meeting.

The Same to [the Same].

Same date—Since I writ to you I have seen some of our Lords. I acquainted them with the great concern your Lordship is pleased to show for the recovery of our misfortune and for the having justice done us. I find those Lords understand that on Sunday night at the meeting at the Cockpit, the method of proceeding in this matter was fully adjusted and agreed between the Lords of the Council and the Scots Lords who waited upon them, in this manner:—That upon her Majesty being pleased to speak from the Throne upon the subject of our hardships, there was a motion to be made for an address, humbly desiring her Majesty to lay such proposals before the House in this case as she should think fit. This method for many reasons too long to repeat to your Lordship was approved by all, and I know our Lords are still of the same opinion, but I should be glad to receive your commands in this respect, that I may be the better able to lay it distinctly before the meeting, and acquaint the Lords at the same time that the Ministry have resolved to pursue this method. There is nothing more reasonable than that the endeavours of the Ministry to relieve us from our present hardship and our assistance in matters concerning the support of her Majesty's service should be mutual. I am obliged to acquaint you that our Lords meet to-morrow precisely at ten and would therefore beg the favour of your answer by that time.

The Duke of Leeds to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, January 18—Forwarding a memorial to the Queen to the effect that his eldest son Lord Latimer, now deceased, had an illegitimate son called Charles Mallet, who was put apprentice to a Turkey merchant in London called Mr. William D'Bouverie, to whom the Duke gave 1,000*l.*, and he afterwards gave Mallet 2,000*l.* to improve his estate in his trade. On the 17 October last Mallet was barbarously murdered at Constantinople, but being illegitimate has no heirs at law but the crown, having left no will.

What was granted to Lord Rochfort, Lord Jeffreys, and others in like cases the Duke thinks will not be denied to him, and he therefore desires a warrant from the Queen giving him letters of administration

of Mallet's estate in order that he may recover some part of his money in case anything can be found at such a distance. His writings and papers are in the hands of merchants at Galatea where the plague now is.

KER OF KERSLAND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711-12, January 19—The Duke of Buckingham sent to acquaint me this morning that it was your desire I should attend you. I am ready to wait your pleasure, only I hope you will consider the pressure of debt I lie under, contracted since my being desired to continue in this place on the public account; and will order me some relief and subsistence which you know I cannot but want.

W. BROMLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711-12, January 21—I find nothing will satisfy, nor be taken to be falling gently, that shall go farther than to declare, that in consideration of the General's great services the House does not think fit to proceed upon the report. Voting the money on the contract for bread, no perquisites, and that the 2½ per cent. is public money and ought to be accounted for, is what he will not hear of; for that is putting him into the power of his enemies, and he had rather lose his head. This shews he has great confidence in the solicitations that have been made, and I presume to acquaint your Lordship with it that due care (better care than last Thursday) may be taken to oblige the attendance of some, and to engage others on this occasion.

KER OF KERSLAND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711-12, January 22—Being ready to show your Lordship the originals of what I ever advanced, and willing to attend your pleasure if you think me capable of any service, I am obliged to lay my present circumstances at your feet, being unable any longer either to preserve my person from a gaol or to subsist, except your Lordship immediately order me relief. My family sufferings in former reigns, and my losses for my own services under this, and long attendance here, is the cause of this presumption and importunity which I hope your Lordship will pardon and have some regard to my pressing instances.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711-12, January 24—In my last I hinted to your Lordship something I would lay before you, which I thought transacting against her Majesty's interest in Scotland, but I confess to you I did not suppose so near breaking out, and in this manner.

In duty to your Lordship I cannot but humbly represent that this step which amounts to no less than a setting up the Common Prayer Book on one hand, and a toleration of Episcopacy on the other will, besides the unhappy consequences which are easy to foresee, effectually lose the whole body of the Presbyterians from her Majesty's interest in that kingdom, who till now have kept steady and have not mingled

with the common discontents of the Dissenters here, or of the Whigs on either part; and I humbly beseech you to think whether on the other hand the Episcopal Party (not Jacobite) in that place are able to stand her Majesty in any stead in the room of it.

I am not arguing the affair of religion one way or other, but nothing seems more evident than that her Majesty's interest there is founded only on the Presbyterian party and she has very few other friends there. Farther I beg leave to suggest that the snare laid in this bill to involve in ruin a poor hot and furious but well meaning people is very visible, and the gentlemen who know that no Act of Parliament can restrain the zealous people in this case depend upon embroiling them as formerly with the Government, and bringing them into blood, which I fear will be unavoidable; nor will the Liturgy ever be set up in Scotland (the poor subjected clans of Highland slaves excepted) but by force, persecution, and all the unhappy consequences of arms; I entreat in the humblest manner your Lordship's leave to remind you of this very objection made by the poor jealous people at the time of the Union, which I did myself the honour frequently to signify to you at that time, and which I had your licence then to assure them they should not have need to fear.

I have frequently recommended the poor warm people there as on many accounts to be borne with and pitied, and capable on many occasions to render her Majesty good service, and their headiness in the last affair of the invasion testifies for them, and recommends them to her Majesty's compassion; when these episcopal people who appear now so zealous for the English Liturgy, (and my Lord Lyon more especially) openly shewed themselves ready to embrace a popish Pretender.

I pray God this be not a plot to deprive her Majesty of the assistance and service of so considerable a part of her faithful subjects; and to make them a constant uneasiness to the Government, and the Government to them. I cannot but apprehend the fatal consequence of this to the Peace of Scotland, and as your Lordship has been pleased to give me leave with freedom and faithfulness to lay such things at your feet, I could not omit it. I lament the obstinacy of a party among us, which make such things necessary. But the poor people of Scotland have had no share in them, and resolved to adhere to her Majesty in all her just measures. I know if any help be for them with man, it is in your Lordship. I pray God make you the happy instrument to save them from the ruin evidently before them.

I have much of this affair to add, but I am loth to offend you with my importunities. I shall attend your leisure to mention it more fully. I humbly ask your pardon for so much freedom.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—Scotland—Goldsmith.

Thomas Smith to the Lord Treasurer.

1711-12, January 28—I could not but the other day admire to see Mr. Cornwall at your levée professing a profound respect for you, who when at Smyrna lately did declare, on his arrival, to the Consul and the rest of the merchants, that it was the High Church intentions to bring in the Pretender and to wipe off the nation's debts with a sponge. I acquaint you with this that you may not countenance such an enemy to the present ministry and yourself.

LORD BALMERINO to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711-12, January 29—My absenting from the House is with the consent of my countrymen, for it is impossible for me to agree with them who think that any contract can justly be altered without the consent of the contractors, who, in the Treaty of Union, were on our part the Estates of Scotland, and not the nobility; nor can our peers dispose of their peerage as of their property; the public is too much concerned in it to permit this. Meanwhile as I am heartily concerned for the interest and honour of my native country (and I firmly believe the same of those who differ from me in this point) so I shall never fail in the duty I owe the Queen's Majesty nor in the particular respect which I have for your Lordship.

The DUKE OF ARGYLL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1712, January. Barcelona?]—I will beg the protection your Lordship is so good to promise me, for indeed I have great need of it. My fate has been very hard since I undertook to serve her Majesty in this post, for I have since my leaving England lost my preferment by being left out of the promotion of generals of the foot. I have lost my pension and I am not paid what is due to me as ambassador, by which means if I had not by good fortune remitted considerably of my own money I should not have been able to leave this place.

Whatever you may be told by gentlemen who are neither your friends nor mine, my only dependence is upon you. I have and will serve *(sic)* you like a honest man and, leave you who will, I will never depart from your interests. I know very well I have been strangely misrepresented to you of late, and if the half were true that it seems has been insinuated to you I should deserve all the ill-treatment I could meet with from you.

I hope that you will now do something for me, that both my friends and enemies may believe that I am not without a share of your favour.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"D. Argyll—without date—R. from Lord Forbes, Feb. 1712."

[SIR SCIPIO HILL to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

[1712, February ?]—I am glad that you are better in your health. I am afraid we shall lose my correspondent P[etkum], if we have not lost him already, for really your Lordship thinks him of little use or, if you do, I must confess your way of dealing with him is very singular. You would remember that it is near four months that he hath been blown up with expectation; it is now five consecutive posts that I have not wrote to him, for I do not know what to say to him. This day the post goes for Holland, pray let me have the honour to come and settle that affair with you any hour this day, for if you resolve to remit him some coin, even in the way and manner of remitting there is some circumspection required. I wonder how you can delay such a trifle, and which in my humble opinion is of moment, do either this to-day, or else since Mr. Harley is going beyond sea, give me leave to write to him this, that he will settle matters with him when he comes to the Hague. I have no other view in this business but that I may be so happy to show the zeal and affection I have to serve you.

If I had that sloth in my temper that you have, I would on purpose keep a man to pull me by the sleeve to remember me of things that I was to do.

Postscript.—I have ordered my black slave to stay at your house till he gets an answer.

MAJOR HENRY FOUBERT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711-12, February 4—I have laid my papers in Mr. Taylor's hands, and since you are pleased to take the ill-condition of my affairs into consideration, I must acquaint your Lordship that, amongst the rest of the debts I contracted to go on with the building of my Academy, I owe one Mr. Scroggs 500*l.*, which must be repaid against Lady Day, besides 45*l.* interest, which sum I am utterly unable to pay, unless you take pity on me, and I am timely relieved.

J[OHN] URRY to LORD HARLEY.

1711-12, February 11—You have heard, no doubt, of an antiquity discovered at Stunsfield, a village between Woodstock and Cornbury. I suppose when Mr. Hearne's other volume of Leland comes out, you may have a full account of it. In the mean time, be pleased to take this rude sketch of it, drawn by strength of memory at Woodstock, by Mr. Ford, the chaplain, after having viewed it carefully. The owner of the field would not let him do it upon the spot, unless he would pay him five pounds.

'Tis said there were coins found here, though the fellow denies it. The Duke of Marlborough having sent for them, had answer there were none. I have seen a Constantine, that Mr. Harcourt, of Jesus, says came thence, and they say a servant of Prince Eugene's had one there with a reverse like the figure in the middle of the circle, but there are a hundred stories about this antiquity.

The figures are supposed to be a Bacchus, with a thyrsus in the one, and a diola in the other hand, bestriding a tiger. The head is supposed to be a persona, or a satyr's head; the things in the angles without the circles are cocks and hens. The colours of the pavimentum are azure, red, olive and white. The matter is a composition, hard as stone, which takes a polish like marble.

I have not seen it, but intend next week to take a view of it. There are colliers at work on Ensham Heath for coal, and have dug seven or eight yards, but must go very deep ere they come at the mine, and 'tis to be feared, being to dig lower than the river, they will find too much water.

Postscript.—There was a trident of about two feet long, the handle terminated in a large boss, the teeth of it were near a foot long, one of them is worn much shorter by rust. Dr. Boucher, the Professor of Civil Law's son, of All Souls, purchased that.

(Pencil drawing enclosed.)

CHARLES DAVENANT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711[-12], February 11—On behalf of his son Henry Davenant, who had been sent out as envoy to Switzerland, but had been stopped at Frankfort, owing to the death of the Emperor.

JOHN KYRLE to the LORD TREASURER.

1711-12, February 11. Ross—Recommending a person in bad circumstances from the decay of trade as postmaster of Hereford. His father was the youngest brother of Colonel Kyrle. He always conforms to the established Church, is a civil person, and dwells in that city.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1711-12, February 14—I reproach myself with the answer I gave your Lordship when you were pleased to ask me if I had anything particular to offer, because I fully purposed to have represented a particular case of the poor keel men of Newcastle, which I once offered formerly to you, and who are now like to have the government and management of their own charity subjected to the fitters and magistrates, by which a new foundation also will be laid to influence and enslave the poor men, and thereby again make a monopoly of the coal trade. There is so much justice and charity in the case, that I persuade myself you will be pleased with appearing in behalf of a thousand families of poor and injured men, whom none but God and your Lordship can now deliver. If you please to give me leave, I would gladly lay an abstract of the case before you; it being in a few days to pass the House of Commons.

I have had several people frequently coming to me for advice in little projects, which they offer afterwards to your Lordship, as I suppose, in the Treasury Office, and I have not troubled you with any of them, because I have thought few of them worth your notice. But there is one who offers a proposal for raising the revenue of Excise, as he says, about 60,000*l.* per annum, without any additional charge. I confess I thought his design well laid, and encouraged him for that reason to proceed. The man's name is Finch, an honest man and of good character, by trade a brewer. If you please to call for such a name, I believe his petition or memorial is in the office; or if it may be for your service, I shall lay his scheme before your Lordship, first assuring you I have no concern or interest directly or indirectly in it, only as I thought it my duty to lay anything before you which I thought might be for the public good.

I would on my own account gladly have represented some things relating to the Press. I have always expressed myself ready to lay down my pen, when it shall cease to be any longer useful to you, yet I would humbly hope you will not look upon me as an invalid, if I should be laid by as to printing, believing that general interest and correspondence I have settled especially in the north shall always be capable of being improved for your service. Indeed, as I am used by the Whigs and Dissenters for writing and printing, because I cannot go their length, and dare to write what does not please them, it can be nothing but the hopes I have that I am someway useful to your Lordship that supports me; and though I forbear to trouble you with it, as not worth your notice, yet in the general it may suffice to say, the persecution and reproach I meet with from them is turned to personal mischief, raising creditors, reviving old prosecutions, and open endeavours to ruin and distress me.

But as this drives me the more into your protection, and your goodness has been pleased to support me, I have not failed with the utmost force I have had to detect the arts and shifts of a party, and open the

eyes of those who would otherwise be blinded by their popular clamour; and it is my happiness that this is perfectly agreeable to my judgment and principle, as I hope it is to your service. I, therefore, lay myself at your feet, entirely depending on your goodness for my support, and I openly defy and contemn the fury of a party baffled by their own ungoverned heat.

I sincerely lament the case of Scotland. I see the necessity of giving way to the current, and can heartily blame those who have driven things to such extremities; but I dread the consequences in Scotland. I do not fail to temper and persuade the warm people there to calm their thoughts and keep themselves quiet; and were there to be no aggressors, more might be done. But I fear the fury of the Jacobite party will drive the other into excesses.

If my health would permit me, I should tender my service to spend the summer now at hand among them, and if you shall think me useful, nothing but utter disability shall detain me; for I persuade myself I may do something among them which everyone cannot. But all that and myself, my fortune and hopes, are at your Lordship's absolute command and direction.

Postscript.—I shall attend on Saturday morning according to your command.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Mr. Goldsmith."

The Earl of Moray to ————

1711-12, February 15. Castle-Stuart—The magistrates of Edinburgh have informed the Lords of the Treasury that my island of Incholm is the most proper place for the airing of goods taken out of ships infected. I am surprised they should pitch upon that island, which is so near my house of Dunibrisle, the place of my constant residence, that I could not with safety live in it were such goods deposited there; and besides it would banish me from that island wherein I take great pleasure at fishing, shooting, and other diversions, and since there are other islands in that Firth as proper for that purpose and more safe, being at a greater distance from the land, I hope it will not give offence that I beg leave not to consent to the proposal.

J[ohn] Urry to Lord Harley.

1711-12, February 17—On Friday last I viewed the antiquity at Stunsfield, of which I sent your Lordship a very rude, lame draught. Nor can I present you with a better now. I wish some person of skill were appointed to take a copy of it, for to me it seems (but I never saw any such things before) very beautiful. They tell me that the length of the floor is thirty-five feet long and twenty feet broad, and it consists of two squares. That, of which your Lordship has an imperfect sketch, seems to be the more instructive, and though it wants the life which, I think, are words, yet it cannot be anything else but a Bacchus, or a Bacchanal; and the beast behind it, is without doubt a tiger. Whether the Bacchus is sitting on the beast I cannot say, or only in a dancing posture, and the tiger standing behind him. Since the figure is in foreright posture and wanting the advantage of shades, it may be thought to be sitting, though it might be designed for a dancing posture. 'Tis plain a two-eared pot in his hand and the staff or javelin has leaves upon it, as he has round his head. This group, as I may call it, is in a circle within a square.

The other is a square within a circle, and the neatest pattern for a Persian carpet, that ever I saw; possibly it might have been copied from one. In the innermost least square is a double true-love knot, and in some of the borderings single ones; in others chains. I never saw a piece of this work before, but sure this was not the worst workman that ever pitched a floor, that made this.

There is standing a wall near two feet high round this floor, and in equal distances, three of a side opposite to each other, drains, the country people call them and suppose they were put there to keep the floor dry, for they go down to a vault, which is under this. The farmer told me, next week they should find the entry to the vault, he thought; but I conceive these vents, which they call drains, were not designed to carry off the water from the floor, which doubtless was covered overhead from the injury of the weather, but I fancy they were rather made to let up heat to this place, from fire made under it, for I suppose it to have been some elegant bagnio. In this field are a great number of foundations discovered, and here has stood, God knows how long ago, some great fabric. I'm told he that had the piece of coin, like what you see in the circle, was not a servant of Prince Eugene's, but one of the Lord Brooke's. I shall enquire further after this.

The country people begin to say, that there is a vault under ground from this to Woodstock, and that Rosamond had a dwelling here; but whether that be so or not, this has been made at the cost of some very great person, without all doubt.

When I was there I saw one who came from London to sell some pictures here stealing a sketch of it, as well as he could. If I see he has done it anything like, I will make so free with him to desire him to wait on your Lordship, and give you the pleasure of seeing it. The Spiramina seem not to be so well contrived for carrying off the water, for they are above half a foot, near a whole one, above the floor, they seem to be of Roman tile above an inch thick, the vent is near a foot in length, and about three inches over.

I was very well satisfied with my journey. I wish your Lordship may not be displeased with my tedious account; I presume upon your good-nature. I return you many thanks for the noble Homer you bestowed upon me, and for the honour you do me in letting me write to you.

(*Drawing of figures in ink enclosed.*)

The Earl of Orrery to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, February 26—Asking for his arrears of pay as Major General on the Flanders establishment and also that he might be named on the establishment for the ensuing year. Will not at the same time importune his Lordship for the three quarters' arrears of salary due some time ago to him as Minister, but begs leave to state that without that money he would not be able to go to Flanders, and he believes the situation of affairs will require his going over in a very little time.

[John Drummond to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, [February 27-]March 8, N.S. Amsterdam—My most humble and hearty thanks are all the returns I am capable of making you at this time for the honours, friendships, and great civility which

your Lordship was pleased to bestow on me at London. I got here this morning with Mr. Hay in good health and found my partner recovering. I never received more civility from the Grand Pensionary than last night at the Hague, and I am much concerned that I should have stayed so long at London, doing very little good to myself or anybody else, seeing I cannot but think that I might have been of some use here, and prevented a good deal of misunderstanding which has happened, for want of some one who would have been at pains to set people right.

The Grand Pensionary laments heartily the growing differences between this state and England; I gave him my humble opinion how to prevent them, and he has ordered me to wait on Mr. Vander Dussen on Saturday at Utrecht. He declares he cannot get any of his friends to bear Lord Strafford's humour. I have told him that the Bishop was no less trusted, and if the States will but open their minds to his Lordship in secret, it will have a good effect. He has promised to instruct Vander Dussen for a secret conference, in which I hope they will declare that it is not Spain, nor the Indies, they will insist on, but what can be easily acquired by a right understanding between England and Holland without either's prejudice; that the difference with England about the barrier treaty is inconsiderable; and that if your Lordship will but show a good inclination for their common safety you will see they shall not insist on impossibilities. He ordered me not to let Buys know of my meeting with Vander Dussen nor Lord Strafford. He assured me he was against Prince Eugene's going over, and advised him against it, but that he had brought his resolution from Germany.

Lord Albemarle's enterprise on the magazines of Arras has gained him honour. I believe he will have leave to come to the Hague next week. My reputation has been chiefly attacked here by letters from the party and from England, and some undutiful subjects the Queen has here, amongst whom Mr. Sweet who, I can prove by several, gave out that I was imprisoned in England for corresponding with St. Germain.

I beg the continuance of your favour and protection which I never more needed, and hope never more have deserved. By next post more at large, being yet very unsettled, please pardon this.

Postscript.—This goes under Mr. Gosling's cover, a trusty man in the Post Office, whom I have long known.

Sir Gilbert Dolben to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, February 29. Queen Street—I have to thank your Lordship for accepting the Nimeguen letters. They were given me by Mr. Chudleigh, who was secretary of that embassy, and contain a perfect account of that negotiation. I never parted with them out of my custody so I may affirm none of them are in print. Besides the five volumes of letters, there are five more consisting chiefly of memorials, powers, and other instruments. Though many of them were printed about thirty years ago at the Hague, yet I venture to trouble you with them because several letters, not printed, are interspersed in those volumes, and the collection would not have been complete without them.

Alexander Cunningham to the Lord Treasurer.

1712, March [2-]13, N.S. Venice—Being to leave this place in a few days in order to go to Holland, pardon me to take my usual liberty to ask

your commands during my stay there. Here I was frequently with the Earl of Peterborough, who desires to be remembered to your Lordship, that is to say that you would be pleased to remember him; he desired the compliment might be made to you by one Mr. Cunningham, that he says often dines with your Lordship, for he does not know that I am in the least known to you. We had a world of debates, but knowing him to be an injured person, debated nothing he said of Lord Sunderland and some others, but as to things we spoke freely. I saw him lay out a world of money, but could not get him in with the virtuosi here, who had not put him to so much charges as the others that haunted his house. The Duke of Argyll stayed only three days here, which he spent most in seeing things. It was a great pleasure to me to hear him express the esteem he has for your Lordship. I was going to bid his Grace put you in mind of the Homer, of which I wrote to your Lordship last year, but I forgot it again, as generally I do my own business. The purchases I have made since that are what England has not yet seen. No Cæsar that Tonson can print is to be compared with three I have. These things will give your Lordship diversion in time of peace, may it be soon if good. Lord Herbert is dangerously ill of a fever, yet I hope he will overcome it, only I cannot persuade his physicians to blister him. Sir John Reed is dead at Rome, of the small-pox.

[John Drummond to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, March [4-]15, N.S. Amsterdam—I returned last night from Utrecht, where I found at my arrival the Queen's ministers begun to think that those of the States would soon show some more complaisance than they had hitherto done. The Grand Pensionary had given Mr. Vander Dussen a very full account of all the discourse he had with me at the Hague, and was pleased to add that he found that the accounts I had wrote him from England were just, and that Vander Dussen might judge by what I would say to him that some sudden resolution must be taken to prevent the growing jealousies of two nations whose friendship was so necessary for their mutual welfare. I had fully informed my Lord Privy Seal that besides paying my duty to his Lordship and Lord Strafford, I had a message from the Grand Pensionary to his favourite Vander Dussen, and that I hoped the effect of it would produce an openhearted conference between Vander Dussen and his Lordship, in which he would declare the intentions of the States to bring the treaty of peace to a speedy and happy conclusion, and to join hand in hand with the Queen's ministers to obtain what they may reasonably expect of the French for their safety, and lay aside all unreasonable hopes and demands. My Lord Privy Seal seemed to accept of my weak endeavours with a good deal of satisfaction, and desired that I might bring matters so to bear that Vander Dussen might either commune with his Lordship and Lord Strafford jointly, or at least not lay him under any tie of secrecy from my Lord Strafford, the reasons for insisting on this, his Lordship said, could not but be obvious to me, who had been so long well acquainted with Lord Strafford, with whom he had hitherto as much as was possible lived in entire confidence and friendship.

I then (after having paid my respects to Lord Strafford) went to Buys's and Vander Dussen's house, and demanded audience of the first as my most intimate acquaintance, and gave him the best account of matters in England that I could, making him such compliments

from thence as I thought would please him, and for the rest dwelt on general heads, desiring to speak with Vander Dussen about his tile manufactures at Targou (?), and to acquaint him with what Mr. Vanhuls had told me on that subject. Mr. Buys left us together, and I never had more satisfaction in any conversation on this side than for near three hours with Vander Dussen, who assured me that he would lay my Lord Privy Seal under no restriction of concealing anything from Lord Strafford, and that he believed Lord Strafford to be a very honest, warm-hearted man, and that he would be as hearty an instrument for the common good against the French as he had been in opposing any measures which he may have thought the States were taking to make matters difficult or disagreeable to England, and that he would in every thing concert measures so with Lord Privy Seal as to communicate mutually the Grand Pensionary's intentions and those of the secret Council or Commission to my Lord Strafford in such a manner as should neither give jealousy nor offence; and the result of all was that he should tell his colleagues that he was going to his country house last night, and to give some account or directions about the tiles, whereas he is to arrive this night late from his country house at the Grand Pensionary's, and towards the end of the week to be back at Utrecht, with full instructions how to concert matters so with the Queen's Ministers as may remove all jealousies, and show their good inclination towards a reasonable and speedy peace.

I insisted very much with him to lose no time, for that all the money that would or could be raised this year would only carry on the war till June, that even before and long before that time the Queen ought to be at a certainty, for that a good sum of that money must be kept for paying off the foreign troops who will be dismissed from the Queen's pay. He said it was the general concept at present to make some early effort, and, if possible, to invest Cambray or some such place ere the French could take the field, for want of dry forage, and that he was well assured that the French would only secure their army behind the Soame till green forage was upon the ground, and to this effect he entreated that the Duke of Ormond might come over with all speed to show the French that we were ready for war if they would not come to reasonable terms of peace, that the better show we made the shorter resolutions the enemy would take, and that after all he had said, there must be some expedient found to remove the jealousy which the trading towns have conceived of the separate benefits obtained or to be obtained for the South Sea Company. He said the assiento of negroes did not give so much umbrage as the trade which that might give an introduction to, and that he studied day and night to remove the jealousy of that affair, but was not yet able; that he wished anything, though not worth one hundred pounds a year, could be found out for the benefit of the Dutch, to remove all ground of jealousy; that their whole Republic was become jealous of the strength and growth of their East India Company, which I had made some reflection on, but that hundreds of ancient and good families ruined by the fall of the West India Company were to be pitied, and that some small consideration was to be had for them. I assured him that your Lordship never objected against such a thing, and that I would bind myself to procure an order to the Queen's Ministers to assure those of the States that, in case the English South Sea Company should not be able to perform the whole assiento of negroes, that they should oblige themselves to

employ the Dutch for their assistance, preferable to all other nations; and that if any small benefits not prejudicial to the English trade and plantations could be thought upon for the benefit of the Dutch West India Company, he would find the Queen and her Ministry come very heartily into it. He said Porto Rico, a small and almost uninhabited island near Curacao, had been talked of, but that it was thought almost useless that he would come to Amsterdam and stay either at his uncle Burgomaster Corver's or his brother-in-law Pancras's house one night, and would desire me to come to them, which I very readily offered my service in *(sic)*.

He asked whether the Queen would assist them to obtain Valenciennes to their barrier. I desired him not to count upon it, but that in the barrier treaty the Queen would show them great complaisance, and even put the hardships on the Emperor, if the States should take care to deserve better of the Queen than the Emperor did; but that they must lay aside the fifteenth article entirely, and settle the commerce on a just and equal foot with England to the Spanish Netherlands and new barrier, that as to Dendermonde and several other places they would be made easy, for of himself he threw up Nieuport. He said your Ministers seemed once concerned as if they were equipping a great fleet; I told him that I believed that was an unnecessary concern, for that I should have been glad to have seen more preparations towards it. He assured me that they were not able to fit out the necessary convoys for the security of their trade and fishing till this lottery money came in, and out of that they will begin next month to equip. He was very desirous to know Sir James Wishart's commission. I told him I knew nothing of it, but you may be satisfied there is no such thing as a great fleet equipping here, and you may also be satisfied that the great cabal which corresponded with Sir Humphrey and his friends is reduced and broke; it was strong, and some remains are still to be found, particularly at Rotterdam.

Count Sinzendorf has lately shown Prince Eugene's invitation to England, as I am told; he calls it only an encouragement. Just now the French letters come in with the news of the Duke of Bretagne's death and his brother's being ill; what alterations this may occasion I cannot yet guess. If a parcel of tiles can be admitted, it will please Vander Dussen very much, and he ought to be pleased.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, March 6—I have great curiosity to know the secret you promise me, and shall be very ready to give you my sentiments, and all the assistance I can to bring affairs abroad to a happy conclusion, which cannot fail being done with that care and resolution your Lordship is master of.

[John Drummond to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, March [7-]18, N.S. Amsterdam—Since I had the honour to write last to your Lordship, everything has been at a stand by the death of the Dauphin, and I cannot yet find anyone who pretends to guess how matters may go, farther than that they say we will certainly have a very good peace, but not so soon as would have been if the Prince had lived.

Out of the twelve million of guilders collected for the lottery, four millions are to be paid next week to the Admiralties, who are much in debt, and had given over working till this money was agreed upon, and Sir James Wishart will soon be able to know what they intend to do, which I believe will not be above their quota in proportion to what England may think necessary.

What I have now chiefly to trouble your Lordship with is the support of the public credit, and of my own private affairs which I could not but have sunk under, unless I meet with good friends who are willing, but not able to do for me what they incline to, without your Lordship's assistance. Sir John Lambert, Mr. Hoare, and Mr. Gibbon, or that company are to support me by advancing my partner and me 30,000*l.* for six months' time, but unless you will be pleased to pay them one hundred thousand pounds of what you owe them for their contracts at the Treasury, which will be soon due to them, it will be impossible for them to give me this great assistance and support, and unless I have it in twenty-five days' time, I shall not be able to perform my business, but must sink under the loss and discredit which Stratford and his house has so unmercifully brought on me, being actually at this time above seven thousand pounds in advance for them, and though it will not prove a dead loss, yet I must lie long out of the money. My Lord, this I beg of you with all the concern that ever a poor unlucky man was under, who with a small beginning has brought himself to a very good stock of credit and esteem by fair and punctual dealing, and who would venture his life to serve you with as much pleasure as you would to serve your Queen and country. The paying these gentlemen this sum about a month sooner than was contracted, not only saves the public the interest which they reap if they should wait out the time, but it saves another interest in discounting here, and it will not only save me but the whole English credit here and many others who must fall with me for want of credit.

I believe by this time, my friends have given Mr. Brydges sufficient security for the employment I am to have under him. Mr. Sweet's clerks have offered me their service, and I have secured them; but if I be not supported immediately by these gentlemen, which I am sure I can depend upon, better for me to be out of the world, for then my enemies will triumph over me with ease and pleasure; and it can do your Lordship no manner of unkindness, nor the public, that you pay these gentlemen a part of what is owing them, and of which they have paid the value here, and my fall would I fear be some reflection on your Lordship, who did me so much honour in England and so publicly. I may venture to say I have endeavoured with all my heart to deserve your favour and protection with no other view than that of serving you.

I have desired Mr. Gibbon to explain my case to your Lordship, and the pressing necessity of a speedy assistance, which at the same time I must conceal with all imaginable secrecy. I shall from this time forward be extricating myself from all private business, and end my partnership, and take myself entirely and diligently to the employment which your Lordship was so ready to consent to let me have, and which I can neither serve with honour nor pleasure unless I be at this time supported and enabled to clear myself from private business, and from this immediate strait which my misfortune of being concerned with Stratford's house has laid me under, which not only robs me of so great a sum of money, but also of a good deal of credit, which is become here so nice, that your Lordship will find the Bank's corres-

pondents unwilling to discount here the sums which the Bank has drawn on them, and yet at this time the Bank is more proper than any private man to be employed. But of this I shall have the honour to write your Lordship a fuller account next week, and also to propose a method which may make matters go easier and bring them on the foot which Sir H. Furness had them here, which made the paymaster and the public easy without any additional charge.

R. Molesworth to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, March 10—My eldest son, now her Majesty's envoy at Florence, has due to him on the 4th inst. about 3,450*l*. The circumstances of his and the family's affairs are such that, without the speedy payment of a sum on account, I do not know what will become of us. Upon his first setting forth I furnished him with 1,000*l*. out of my own pocket, her Majesty's allowance not being near sufficient to provide him with all sorts of equipage, plate, household goods, coaches, horses, furniture, clothes, &c., for so long a time and voyage, with credit to her Majesty's service; nor did I think it unreasonable, though having nine children more upon my hands I found it uneasy.

He has hitherto subsisted on credit, till finding that too now stretched as far as it would bear, he was in January last necessitated to draw bills on me for another 1,000*l*. My humble request is that you would be pleased to order him a sum of 2,000*l*., or at least 1,500*l*., to enable me to pay these bills and debts.

I have five sons in her Majesty's service, not in gainful employments; three of them in the army in Spain and wounded this very year. Some of them have served very signally. I have one a clerk in the Treasury office, where he has been near three years, without one farthing of salary; and I believe he has the character of one of the most sober and assiduous among them.

J. Durden to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, March 13—I have been lately in company where some part of the conversation running upon your Lordship and one Doctor or Mr. Brelsford, chaplain to the Duchess of Newcastle, I presume to acquaint you with what was spoken upon that occasion. It was said that your Lordship espoused the interest of the said gentleman in order to his promotion to the Deanery of Wells; that your view in doing it was pretty visible, or that otherwise you would scarce have declared for a person of so obscure a character and more than suspected of leaning to the Low Church interest, to succeed the late Dean.

The talk to-night in the City is that the Mohocks had a design upon your Lordship, if any of their parties could have lighted on you in their walks. God preserve your Lordship from all your enemies!

Sir R. Bradshaigh to [the Earl of Oxford].

1711-12, March 17—The misfortune of a law suit I have been long engaged in for the benefit of my corporation and to keep up my interest there, has been and is still so great an expense to me that I am put to the necessity of immediately taking up a thousand pounds, which sum, if your Lordship would be so kind to find some way to assist me with, I should take it as a very great obligation.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, March [18-]29, N.S. Amsterdam—I received the favour of a letter from Dr. Stratford giving me fresh assurances of your Lordship's goodness and friendship towards me by your ready consenting to make up the Queen's bounty to me to twelve hundred pounds for the charges, &c., I was at last year on the public account, which I humbly entreat may be given either to my wife or to the Doctor for her behoof, which in my present circumstances if I should be snatched from this miserable life would be what she will have to depend upon for subsistence, my losses having been very great, but I have the comfort not to be abandoned by good friends, and I hope your Lordship will be pleased to assist Captain Gibbon and the other gentlemen who have been so ready and seem still so well inclined to carry me through all my difficulties; and your Lordship may be easy that you can neither lose by them nor me, and that I shall owe and be grateful all my life for your Lordship's making them easy, which will further enable them to support me. My reputation has amongst the English trading people been very ill-treated, and my credit ruined; amongst the best of people and magistracy I am as welcome as ever, and in general well received by everyone, high and low, except by those of my own way of business, by whom I have been whispered out of my credit, that they might rob me of my business, and since I came over dare not own any part of their malice, so I hope time will get the better of it.

I was yesterday at the Hague with the Duke of Argyll, and had a good deal of serious discourse with his Grace, who assures me that your Lordship's and his enemies shall not profit by any misunderstanding that may happen between you, and he would go on his arrival direct to your Lordship and would overlook all that is passed, and contrive with you how to be serviceable to the Queen and your Lordship; that he would pull another Duke by the nose if he grew saucy on any hopes that might have been given him of his deserting his friends; and in everything seemed to be so reasonable and so hearty that I am confident a little pains on your Lordship's side may make him entirely your own. If your Lordship and he cannot come to a perfect understanding he will certainly come abroad and travel, but never will fly in the Queen's face.

I had two long audiences of the Grand Pensionary, who I found very melancholy, and his humour much altered, he pretends, by the Commons' representation, and that he will rather be forced to a peace than be assisting to obtain one so disadvantageous as this seems to be for Holland, which England is driving at. I told him he seemed to act so remote that England could make nothing of the States' intentions; he answered that he found no confidence on the part of England, neither were they consulted with or anything done in concert with them. I answered that he never had sent over any one whom you could trust in, and he said that he intended my Lord Albemarle should go over as if it were about his private affairs, but could not yet prevail. He wished your Lordship would either write to him or me privately your intention, and you should find him ready to go any length you could in reason expect of him. I told him that Mr. Harley was soon expected over, and would no doubt give him a visit.

I discovered only last night that an alliance has lately been made between the Emperor, the States, and the Elector of Hanover, and

the Elector being at present the richest Prince in Europe, was to be at the expense of their fleet. If all stories have been true that were told them of the Queen's inclinations for the Pretender and a thousand villanies of that nature, this was made plain to me by one of so great interest and credit in this republic, and how lately the cabal was broken here, and by whom supported and fomented, that I believe there must have been a great deal in it. The English demands at Utrecht have done much good, but the adverse party on your side continue indefatigable in doing mischief here, and the Queen's friends have few or none here, and your Lordship's friends write over here that you might make matters go as easy in the House of Lords as you need to have them, if you would show them any complaisance, or countenance those heartily who are hearty for you, and that you let nature work without giving the necessary assistance. This two peers wrote to one who will be soon with your Lordship.

DIANA, COUNTESS OF OXFORD, widow of Aubrey de Vere, 20th Earl of Oxford (d. 1703) to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1711-12, March 20—If I could imagine the waiting on your Lordship less troublesome than writing, I would certainly do it, indeed it is a double misfortune to be so great a stranger and so much to want your Lordship's favour. The reason I did not sooner make application was my depending on the Duke of Newcastle, and Mr. Bertie, to present me, or my request, they being nearest relations to my Lord except your Lordship; but disappointed in both, and not knowing what other method to take, I am forced to this, for which liberty I beg pardon and leave to tell my unfortunate circumstances. My pension of two thousand pounds a year was settled on me as a jointure by King Charles, who commanded my Lord to marry, and gave his consent to the match; this my Lord if I had to myself, I should never have pressed for more bounty from the Crown, but my two daughters are to be maintained, and indeed I am put to great straits and uneasiness. There goes four hundred pounds a year for the taxes, then the fees and advance money takes above a hundred more; therefore my humble request to your Lordship is that you will represent my case to the Queen so compassionately that I may have an equivalent for the taxes, and some allowance for my daughters' present maintenance, as your Lordship shall judge fit, for I submit it to your honourable thoughts for your family. There are many more reasons I could offer to incline your favour, if I were to speak to your Lordship, but dare not trespass longer upon your patience; only beg your Lordship to consider the widow and fatherless of no mean quality, which we never sought (*sic*), now in distress, and have no friend nor relation but your Lordship to tell these sad truths to.

THOMAS MADOX to the LORD TREASURER.

1711-12, March 21—If the Lords' Committee on public records shall think it proper to desire that the records of the late Court of Wards be looked into and sorted, petitions that he may be employed as keeper and digester of them, being a poor sufferer in the cause of history. Believes that Lord Weymouth, Lord Guilford, and others of the Committee will favour him in his design.

SIR HENRY BELASYSE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, [March 23-]April 2, N.S. Genoa—We sent you our observations on Mr. John Chetwynd's accounts from Turin, since which Mr. Stowell and Archer are gone for the Parmisan and Plasentine, to muster the Prussian and Saxe Gotha troops, notwithstanding the little hopes the Duke of Savoy gave them, that the generals of those troops would permit them so to do. Besides there is a detachment of 2,500 of the Prussians on their march for Piedmont, and there is also a detachment of the Saxe Gothas at Suras; so that by a muster their numbers cannot be known, they being thus dispersed. The Duke of Savoy would not give us the least account of their numbers. What I could learn from his generals was, that the Prussians were little above 6,000 at the end of the last campaign, and had not above 500 recruits for 1710, and about as many for the last year, and they came very late; the Saxe Gothas are completer. If the war should continue, I humbly propose to your Lordship to get an order from the King of Prussia to muster these troops, without which their generals will not allow it, and that there be a commissary appointed to do it at their taking the field, as well as to the Saxe Gothas, who are more tractable, and in case they are not then found complete, to deduct a proportion of their subsidies.

I beg leave to propose one thing more, which is that 50,000*l.*, with the Duke of Savoy's management, will defray very well the extraordinary charge of a defensive campaign in Savoy. Our envoy at that court seems rather a creature of the Duke's than that of our ministry, and we could have no assistance from the Duke in any of our enquiries. Despairing of doing any service where my colleagues are gone, and not being in a condition to accompany them, part by reason of my having broke my collar bone (though pretty well again) from my being overturned in a chaise, I came directly to this place. I expect Mr. Stowell and Archer every day here, we having been now separated fourteen days, and then shall lose no time in the despatch of our business here, in order to proceed on our voyage for Barcelona.

I saw the Lord Peter[borou]gh at Turin, who is since come hither. He shewed me there (in the warmth of his discourse) a letter from the Duke of Shr[ewsbu]ry, expressing his great dissatisfaction at the present management of affairs.

I should be very proud to have the honour to serve her Majesty in her army in Catalonia, and I fancy your Lordship would have no difficulty in effecting it. It would put me upon the same foot with the other general officers, when there is a peace.

KER of Kersland to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, March 26—I was hopeful from what you told me last Thursday to have had your commands yesternight. I doubt not but by the papers I last week lodged in Sir Thomas Hanmer's hand I have satisfied you of my sincerity; and although my circumstances are now such as I cannot buy my dinner nor credit for it, yet I would peaceably submit to what difficulties Providence has thought fit to "tryst" me with before I was thus troublesome, were it not the circumstances of some to whose credit I have been obliged require immediate relief. Give me leave to attend you this night or tomorrow morning to know your pleasure.

JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, March 27. Petty France—Recommending honest Vanderewhen, the reader at the Queen's Dutch chapel, a perfect master of the Spanish tongue, to be employed in inspecting the several very curious *Missalia Romana* and other Spanish and Latin books that were taken in the *Aquapulca* ship and are now in the Queen's warehouse at the port of London. Believes some of them may be worthy of his Lordship's incomparable library.

LORD BARRYMORE to EARL RIVERS.

1712, April [3-]14, N.S. Barcelona—I wrote to you by a runner that went last week to Genoa. I have very little to add now but that our miseries daily increase, and upon the receipt of a letter from Colonel Fermor, Governor of St. Philip's, a copy of which I send, I thought it proper to send an express to inform the Duke of Argyll and my Lord Dartmouth how near ruin we are, and leave it to their consideration.

Sir John Jennings is in chase of nine French men-of-war that came from Toulon with 2,400 land men on board. By all accounts they must be bound to the Indies, the *Lion* met them in the night between Minorca and Toulon, and saw Sir John Jennings very early next morning, so that it is hoped he has come up with them, for the winds we have had will not let them pass the Straits.

[THOMAS HARLEY to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, April [4-]15, N.S. The Hague—I gave an account at several times to the Lords at Utrecht of what I was to say to them, and did all I could to remove the doubts and apprehensions I found they had in their proceeding on some points which were new to them and different from their formal instructions.

When Mr. G[aultie]r first came from France he assured me that the most material things were agreed to, but afterwards he owned and his ministers protested they had no orders, and he made but an indifferent excuse, but supposed a satisfactory account was sent to England. He talked of leaving an option as to Spain, and at the same time agreed to me that project could not be well liked in his country or any where else. It is plain if there is nothing more in it too much time is lost in this season of the year.

Last Saturday night I went to Amsterdam, where great pains have been taken to represent the advantages England is to have by peace so considerable that that alone is sufficient to make those craving envious people averse to any peace on such terms for the good of their neighbours.

Tuesday last I came to the Hague, and the next day went to the Pensionary, as he desired me earnestly to do when I parted from him before. He seems more and more to advance, and speaks very reasonably about the Assiento, &c. He declares against meddling with parties in England, and owns that their security is and must be by joining with the Queen; he is not a little pleased that her Majesty takes notice of him by ordering me to come to him, at the same time speaks of harsh usage he as well as others have had from some employed by the Queen.

He is very apprehensive of the advantage the French may take from the want of a good correspondence between the Queen's ministers and those of the States. I showed him how that began on his side, and that it might immediately be cured by their joining in good earnest with the Queen's ministers, which he said should be done. He says farther that if the ministers differ in any thing, somebody that would talk amicably with him or some others here might find expedients for the greatest difficulties; all I dared say to that was that during the few days I had to stay here I should be glad to be instructed by him.

Baron Wassenaer expressed himself with a great deal of frankness and openness, and desired me to assure you of all the service in his power. He declares he is for peace, and that nothing can preserve the States without a good understanding between the Queen and them, that he fears the French will enrich themselves by advantages they will get from the Spaniards in the West Indies, and after a short peace recover and become the master of Europe; that this is necessary to be prevented, and if they can be secured against France they will desire no more by a peace. If that cannot be obtained they must part with the shirts off their backs. Then he mentioned how necessary and just it is that Holland should share some small part of the advantages of trade with England; upon this foot he would take all the pains he can to gain those that are averse, and he thinks that even the Emperor may at this time be brought to reasonable terms.

I have been assured by a private person here that Daniel (Lord Nottingham?) and Lord Halifax have wrote lately to some of the party against a peace, to assure them that if they will be steady and stand out against a peace they shall be able to bring everything about, and that now they have more hopes than ever. I do not so much wonder they write so as that the people here believe them.

I send inclosed poor Drummond's letter, and can add nothing material but that he says he will show himself to be an honest man though unfortunate, and in a few months hopes to put his affairs in such order as to be at liberty to be employed in some business if he may find favour. Some part of his letter I thought proper to be sent away as soon as possible, therefore I send one on purpose to Helvoetsluys, with order to deliver it to the master of the packet-boat, for now there is not a letter of this sort passes by the post without being opened.

The Lords at Utrecht were very desirous to know how Prince Eugene parted from England, which I could not tell them, having set out before him, and have not had one letter since I came into this country from anybody.

Characters, by Prince Eugene.

1712, April 4. [Received.] A paper headed "The characters of the principal heads of the present prevailing faction in England as Prince Eugene represented it to the Court of Vienna."

The Earl of Oxford is an indefatigable man in business, of a lively and aspiring spirit, and manages the caballing parties with that dexterity that he keeps in with both. It was his good fortune to understand how to improve the indiscreet blunders of the late ministry to his own purpose, by using the Queen with all duty and respect imaginable

while they used her with contempt; and while he was concerned in the public affairs, acted nothing contrary to her pleasure and good liking, whereby he engrossed to himself all her favour and esteem, and by his smooth tongue, insinuating behaviour, and winning mien, got so great an ascendant over her that he has her approbation of all what he does, so that he now steers the helm of state with as great sway as ever Richelieu or Mazarin did in France; and to fix himself the faster therein he has introduced persons (in a manner) subservient to him, some of low birth and small fortune, but good parts, and others of good birth and great fortune, but without experience and of indifferent parts.

For example, Harcourt, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, is a country gentleman of small fortune, but a good lawyer and of a bold spirit, a great asserter of the Church of England, which entitled him to the Queen's favour and to the great station he now is in, and very compliable to all the Treasurer's measures.

The Lord Poulett is a man of a very good estate but never much bred to business, especially affairs of state, of a good and easy and modest temper, much bigoted to the Church of England, and a true patriot in the opinion of the Tory party, which renders him popular.

The Lord Dartmouth, Principal Secretary of State, is much of the same temper with Poulett, very pliable, a great stickler for the Tory party but not much bred to business before, and of a tolerable sense and easily led.

Secretary St. John (the bull-dog of the party) is of a bold and daring spirit, of an aspiring temper, of good parts enough, acquired by the advantage of being concerned in business more than his age allows of. It was thought convenient in the late creation to let him be still a Commoner, to have the better opportunity of battling for them upon all occasions in the House of Commons.

These and other reputed bigots to the Church, never concerned before, were brought into the administration as a demonstration to the world that the interest of the Church and safety of the State are preferred before any private ends, and to rescue both out of the claws of anarchical, atheistical, antimonarchical Whigs, as they are generally called.

The second class of the faction are the Duke of Buckingham, President of the Council, a sanguine man but of great parts, esteemed a true patriot and one of the eldest sons of the Church, a great assertor of the ancient constitution, reputed a great lover of the family of the Stuarts, having the favour of the Queen's ear very much, whereby he is very popular, although of no considerable interest in the country, his estate being more in money than lands.

The Duke of Shrewsbury is a man of a great estate, very good parts, and as sanguine as the Duke of Buckingham, yet not so resolute, but more easily brow beaten.

The Duke of Ormond is the finest cavalier and most complete gentleman that England bred, being the glory of that nation, of so noble spirit that he would sacrifice all for his Church and sovereign, very popular, his great affability winning the hearts and affections of all people; yet cannot say his Grace is much concerned in the ministry, because he acts most by direction, and has no great sway in the Cabinet.

The Dukes of Buckingham and Shrewsbury dislike the Treasurer's proceedings for bringing in more moderate Whigs that never were concerned before, and continuing in places the seeming moderate ones

of the late ministry, thus endeavouring to compose an equal mixture of high and low in the administration, therefore the Prince (Eugene) refers it to the judgment of all considering men whether such a heterogeneous medley of Government thus divided can possibly subsist long upon the basis it is now built on, and conceives it a very easy matter to distract and overthrow them if the members of the late ministry (being men of greater estates, more money, more experience, more interest, and better parts, as they made him believe before his coming over) would but make use of these advantages; and especially if the Duke of Marlborough had as good skill in using his money on this occasion as he had in getting it, the thing might soon be accomplished. But he and Godolphin, Sunderland, and the rest would rather have the ignominy of executing it lie at the doors of foreigners, than venture the displeasure and odium of the people by doing it themselves. Upon which they are also divided among themselves, for Somers, Halifax, and Cowper are for winning over the Treasurer to their interest and reducing all things again into the right channel, or in case of necessity to invite over the Duke of Hanover to dissolve the new ministry; but Marlborough, Godolphin, and Sunderland are for violent methods, saying there is nothing like plucking up an ill weed by the roots. Where there is a disagreement in opinion and measures there will be a difficulty in the operation and execution of a project or design. Yet they still flatter themselves that if they can but prolong the war till the dissolution of this Parliament, they promise themselves the next will suit with their interest, and that of the common cause, there being great endeavours used and interest made for that purpose, as they say.

J. D[RUMMOND] to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, April [4-]15, N.S. Amsterdam—I had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 9-20th past from Mr. Harley some days ago, and he will no doubt acquaint you with the conferences he had with the Grand Pensionary at the Hague, and with Mr. Buys at Utrecht.

I received this morning a few lines from the Grand Pensionary to come to him, which I propose to-morrow to do, and I believe Mr. Harley may have another conference with him e'er I return, which your Lordship will have an account of. I have, I think, brought matters so great a length here with Burgermaster de Haas and his friends and the best men here, that if you can either procure or will at least show your utmost endeavours to obtain for the Dutch or for their West India Company the Assiento of negroes to the north parts of the Spanish West Indies, viz., to Carthagena and Portobello, seeing they are persuaded that you have agreed to supply the whole South Sea coast of America by the means of your South Sea Company, they will hasten matters to your satisfaction, but without some *douceur* of that nature they protest to me, and I can too visibly see it, that it will be impossible to moderate the minds of the people and of this Exchange, who are animated to an incredible degree at present, by encouragement from your side and connivance here.

The deputies of the West India Company went to Utrecht last Saturday, and from thence to the Hague with the States Plenipotentaries, and by what I can learn, Porto Rico, a small and almost uninhabited island on the north coast of America, for the security

of the Curacao trade, and the furnishing negroes to the north side of the Spanish West Indies, is what they are resolved to insist on, and that they are to come to no resolution of peace unless England will assist them to obtain those as an equivalent to what they suppose you have obtained for your South Sea Company; and all the sincere wishers of peace here hope your Lordship will obtain the Queen's orders to her ambassadors to insist on it with the French, or to assure the States deputies that it shall be insisted on with the Spaniards, when they come to be admitted. I am certain that a good appearance on this head may be of the very best effect.

What mortifies the peaceable party here is the haughty behaviour of the French, and the remote proposals which they have hitherto made. If they would come to their ultimatum, matters would soon have another aspect, but what can the States do otherwise than open the campaign with the utmost vigour, when there are no nearer proposals made and the time of going into the field is come. I am assured that as soon as Prince Eugene has got his Germans down, he has full power to hazard a battle, let the event be what it will, but as that cannot be before the tenth of next month, all reasonable men wish that the French may come to their last resolutions before that time, and prevent what may make the continuing the war necessary; for the Prince argues thus, that if he be beat, the English must resolve to help their allies; if the French be beat, there will be new hopes of farther conquest, and of forcing France to abandon Spain. The Prince flatters them very much, though at the same time he tells them that he believes England is already at a certainty with France. They will keep good garrisons in all their new conquests here, that the Imperialists may get no possession, and General Lauder, who is Governor of Dendermond, is ordered not to go to the field, but to remain there and to keep two battalions with him. What if the Queen's ministers should have orders to propose to them to allow the investiture of the Spanish Netherlands to the Emperor ?

I have not been able to see Prince Eugene since his arrival, but I hope to see him to-morrow. The invitation was opposed by my friend on this side, and the former secretary, now on yours, wrote it, and if a copy can be had I will endeavour to come at it. There is no manner of naval preparations farther than for the security of our trade, which hitherto consists only in sixteen sail, from thirty-six to sixty guns. What they will do to answer Sir James Wishart's demands is not yet declared by your Admiralty to the Commissioners of the docks.

Lord Albemarle is confined to the army, Count Tilley being ill and almost superannuated, and unless my Lord Albemarle form a strong camp immediately on the Senset, the enemy may be able to keep us the whole campaign on this side of it. All trade is become very low and dead here, credit and money scarce.

I have been in perpetual torture since my arrival, almost out of my wits when I am alone, and in the day time I must appear abroad and put on the best countenance I can, for I have as many visits and invitations as ever, but must excuse most of them. I laid my case open before Mr. Harley and Mr. Watkins; I called my partner to account before them, and pressed him to bring up such a proportion as my friends and acquaintances were willing to assist me with, but all to no purpose, and I fear I cannot hold it long, for all I can do or my friends for me will not support me, seeing my partner's family

which is rich will do nothing to support him, pretending they must maintain him and his family afterwards, and set him up in some business again, which they can well do, for he must inherit of his father yet six thousand pounds, and I have no relations able to do for me anything of moment, but I have many friends and acquaintances who on this sad occasion would have joined to advance ten thousand pounds to have supported me, and taken their hazard of my future fortune, and seen me settled in Mr. Sweet's place, but my partner proves my ruin, for I can neither satisfy the world, nor undertake that employment; God comfort me!

The East India Company will be the greatest losers by us, and the gentlemen concerned in the public remittances will suffer ten thousand pounds amongst four of them. My partner had secured all his Dutch friends before my arrival, the great business we had, and not eight months ago the greatest credit that one could wish for, will now make our fall the greater in the eyes of the world. I have paid since my arrival here three score thousand pounds, and shall continue to pay to the last farthing I can scrape together, and Stratford's great debt and all others that are owing us shall be surrendered to our creditors, that all reasonable men may see that it is misfortune and no ill design that makes us stop payments.

This is a melancholy entertainment, my Lord, and I hope will merit your compassion, for Mr. Thomas Harley has seen my endeavours, there is between thirty-five and forty thousand pounds of the public bills unpaid, of which Sir John and Mr. Gibbon are both to remit still a large share and what they do remit shall be applied towards the farther satisfaction of their bills, so that your Lordship may pay them safely all their money, except thirty-five thousand pounds, and though you pay it them all, what they lose by me will ruin none of them. However, seeing I once gave you too hasty advice about Stratford, who I was assured had paid the Danish bill because the time was expired, I shall not press you to run one farthing risk, and therefore if you pay them all except thirty-five to forty thousand pounds, depend upon it the public will be more than safe. Though Santing and Segnioret's names don't appear, yet they have a share with Sir J. Lambert, and Samuel Clarke has a share with Mr. Hoare.

What I have taken the freedom to trouble your Lordship with on this miserable condition I am in, I beg may remain to yourself, for I know not what the four English mails that are wanting may bring it to my assistance, though I must . . at last, seeing my partner will get me no assistance, though my stock in the trade by my poor unlucky wife's estate is as great as his and greater.

Since writing what is above, three mails are come in from England, and I have received some remittances from Captain Gibbon, so that your Lordship may depend that all the public bills except thirty thousand pounds at most shall be paid to-morrow, so that if you pay them all except thirty thousand pounds, your Lordship remains full handed with them. I heartily wish such an address from both Houses as your Lordship mentions could be obtained, it would be of use, but I hope their eyes will be open without it in a short time.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, April 5—My last seems to make this necessary; the evil I then hinted at about the stamp office I wait an opportunity to lay before your Lordship.

I could not but represent to you how the party among us, who are so famous for pushing their own disasters, as well as those of their country, please themselves with the hope of having broken all the Ministry's measures; and that they have, as they think, put an end to the Treaty of Peace. Were they alone to suffer by a war it were a pity but they should be filled with their own ways; it is evident they desire the war only as they envy you the glory of the peace, and as they think it gratifies the party they foolishly call their friends. Honest men hope still your Lordship's prudence will baffle all the plots they carry on against the general good, and that the peace so needful to a bleeding nation shall not be so slightly rejected.

It is a sort of pleasant though melancholy contradiction to hear these men rail at the peace in one breath and at the new taxes with the next, as if we were to carry on the war without money; as if they could have a war renewed and a stop put to the raising money at the same time.

The contrary must be one of the ways to convince them who are their friends, those who would take off the burden or those who would bind it on and increase it till the nation sinks under it. These things persuade us all to peace if our eyes were open, but who shall cure a nation born blind!

I long impatiently to represent to you some very material things relating to Scotland; I am full of fears for the public peace on that side, and as I know the hardships put upon them there are against your mind and against the Queen's interest, I am studious to find out mediums to keep both sides easy, and if you please at leisure to enter on some measures for that good work, I shall hope it may not be too late, especially if something may be done before the assembly meets. I apply myself with constant and diligent endeavours to stem the torrent of clamour and dissatisfaction both here and there, and though the success may not answer, I hope the labour and the labourer shall be accepted by your Lordship; and this supports me under the worst treatment (among them) that ever man met with.

[The Earl of Oxford] to Prince Eugene of Savoy.

1712, April 5-16. London—I take the liberty which your Highness has done me the honour to accord, of carrying on a correspondence which will, I hope, be as much in the interests of his Imperial Majesty as in those of the Queen of Great Britain. I assure you that I will employ all my cares in the attainment of that object, and I flatter myself that we shall be in a position to end by this method of communication what the uncertain state of our affairs denied us during your stay in England.

In the packet enclosing this letter will be found "*quelque chose de telle consequence*" as to give me reason for hoping that you will have the kindness to receive it as a real testimony of the desire I have to show you that I am, &c.

[*French, in Matthew Prior's handwriting, but endorsed by Lord Oxford:*—" Copy, to P. Eugen, Apr. 5-16, 1712."]

Earl Rivers to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, April 7. Eling—What you were pleased to mention as to Webb, considering his wounds and long service, I think he should

be put upon some establishment, which he may be in the room of Earle; and have the pay as he has it, though I can never submit to be commanded by him. If her Majesty will please to give me a commission to command here, I submit the rest; it will be expensive to me, but shall leave it to you what you think reasonable.

I shall never desire an establishment to be made on purpose for me; but if her Majesty is pleased to make me any present to support this character, I shall with all duty acknowledge it as I ought to do.

My friend Harry [St. John] has a double meaning in recommending Webb, obliging him and disobliging me, knowing very well that his friendship and mine cease, from the time of his starting from you and the rest of his friends.

JOHN DRUMMOND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, April [8-]19, N.S. Amsterdam—I wish this may have the honour to come as soon to your Lordship's hands as my former of the 15th instant, seeing by my kind friend Captain Gibbon's good offices I am like to be supported and enabled to get over my difficulties, and he and his friends will wait my ability to do them justice, having so much confidence in me to believe that it will be no sooner in my power, than I will do it effectually, and I am gaining every day on my partner's family, so that I am in hopes of bringing them to contribute a good deal, though not so much as comes to their share. And now your Lordship may be easy that all the public bills on my partner and me are or will be discharged in a very few days, so that your Lordship or the public can suffer nothing by having paid the gentlemen their full demand on the Treasury. Whether Mr. Brydges will now send me my commission or not I must leave to his good opinion of me, for I believe he will find my securities still as ready as ever to engage for me, and I hope he will be satisfied with some proofs that I have given him of my honesty.

I returned last night from the Hague, where, after two long conferences with the Grand Pensionary, I think I left him in a very fair way towards accommodating matters, and as soon as my Lord Strafford is gone for Utrecht again, he assured me he would tell Mr. Harley plainly what in his opinion the States will be brought to, for he is very much more satisfied with the method your kinsman meets men and things than with Lord Strafford, and he is for making the peace jointly with England, but assures me that your Lordship must help him, both as to the barrier treaty and some condescension in the negro trade in favour of the Dutch West India Company, for it is impossible for him to satisfy men's minds here till he can obtain something by which he can show them that England has not been working altogether a separate interest.

Lord Halifax and Lord Nottingham have a correspondence carried on here extremely to the prejudice of the public good, and the Queen's honour. Mr. Justice Beck is much made use of to carry on this correspondence, and I wonder that a man of his estate and business should meddle so much and in so indiscreet a manner. Sir James Wishart is now in search of the man (who did?) carry on this correspondence, and if he succeed where I directed him and where I could not go myself, we may trace the whole conveyance of it. Lord Halifax's name is much made use of, but I don't find that he has had the weakness to write himself, they think me a terrible

man in all their letters, and their friend threatens my ruin. I wish that were my greatest misfortune, for I have all the honest and reasonable men on my side, and they tell me themselves how to behave and whom to trust and of whom to be aware. My cause is good, and my heart is not faint on that subject, and I hope a short time will remove all difficulties.

Lord Albemarle was prevented by the French in occupying the strong camp he designed. I am sorry for it on his account. I cannot yet get Mr. Sweet to accept of the money for the two hogsheads of claret, but I will leave it at his house, it is best to pay it.

THE DUKE OF SOMERSET to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, April 10—I had your Lordship's letter of the 29th of March the day before I went to Newmarket to send to the Treasury for a warrant to authorise me to pay Mr. Marshall, and his people belonging to the stud, their salaries to the time you did prevail with the Queen to turn me out of her service. I have now sent to know what you will do in it; and to take notice that you don't mention Thomas Spedding, keeper of the Queen's race horses, and his people, who are under the same circumstances, as the Queen doth very well know and once said he should likewise have the same care taken of him; so that, if there be a warrant to authorise me to pay the salaries of the one, it ought to be for the other also, but as everything is so absolutely in your power, and that you do just as you will in much greater things, you may do the same in this. It is very indifferent to your Lordship's most humble servant.

[CHARLWOOD LAWTON to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, April 14. [London]—Your just notion that pride is not fit for a man will always make you obtain what proud men in vain seek after, the idolatries of those who have access to you. Though my kinsman's necessities are not relieved, he went away ravished with your courteousness. I will not tease you, and I hope you will not be too long before you do something for him.

And I beg whatever is fit to be done in Mr. Penn's affairs may, now he is so ill, have all dispatch. I am not instructed in what relates to his government, but if there are mortgages, they need not hinder, for they must, without doubt, be first cleared. I am still afraid want of money made him too niggardly in his fees.

Your being in so serene and placid a temper last night, made me that I was not willing to disturb you with any complaints, but there is a great deal of grumbling that several very ill men are continued in employments. It is not fit for me to say that you have told me that when there is a peace all other things will follow. My answer is that since they see you have, by the methods they judged too slow, compassed so great things, they ought to confide in your conduct. But though I make this answer go as far as I can with others, yet I think myself that you have been too long in putting some men in, and turning some men out, and I will in a short time tell you some particulars. For your talking so kindly about my kinsman yesterday hath roused my heart, and will again embolden me to say or write whatever I think is fit for you to know, and you shall always tell me as little as you think fit; for I have no farther inquisitiveness than what will enable me to serve you better.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, April [15-]26, N.S. Amsterdam—I hope you will be pleased to pardon the frequent trouble which my miserable unlucky circumstances oblige me to give you, and to believe that I had no hand in the proposal or visits which Mr. Gibbon and Mr. Decker gave your Lordship on my account; it proceeded from their earnestness to help me out of my difficulties, though nothing could be more unreasonable than to trouble your Lordship with a thing which so little concerns you. I find to my grief and sorrow that my affairs must end in shame and misery, for after I had prevailed on my friends and acquaintances to give me very considerable assistance on the encouragement which my partner and his family gave me of advancing his share, they scandalously and barbarously leave me without assistance, and I shall be forced to stop payment in a few days, for his father and brother-in-law now say they promised their assistance on condition that he could show them how they could be reimbursed, and will hazard nothing; saying that they will keep themselves free to be able to set him up again, but no creditor shall be more severe on them to bring them to a high composition than I shall be.

I have got all the public bills now paid except near ten thousand pounds, Mr. Pels having paid every one's share, except Mr. Hoare's, which was one third part of the bill which remained unpaid when I had the honour to write last to your Lordship; and Mr. Pels promises to pay even that third part also, if the next English post brings him in any remittances, so that I hope the public service shall not suffer, and I believe all the undertakers are equally bound to your Lordship for this remnant which is one hundred and four thousand guilders, which I cannot yet get Pels to engage for on Mr. Hoare's account, and this is the only sum unpaid of the public bills. I shall stretch out my payments to the last farthing I have or can command to get this remnant paid, and seeing what your Lordship is so kind to procure for me from the Queen's bounty cannot be received without a procuration, I have sent one this night to my wife. I wish she could save this sum for herself, seeing it is most that she has to depend upon, and will give her all to make my composition the larger. I have desired her to come over to save the furniture which she got from her mother, and which I believe cannot be disputed her, and lest the malice of some ill-natured people here should endeavour to make me keep house or hinder me from protection for my person, till I can adjust matters, I may want her assistance, though it is with much regret I do ask her to come into so much misery. All her letters are full of the honour and friendship she receives of your Lordship's family and my Lord Dupplin's, which is the same.

I humbly beg of your Lordship to continue your compassion and favour to us, and to assure my Lord Kinnoull that Mr. Hay is perfectly well and easy here, and minds his exercises and writing, arithmetic and geography very closely, and that whatever befalls me he shall be perfectly easy and be supplied with everything, and all the useful instruction and service I can give or do to him will not be wanting. He is a worthy, good young gentleman as ever I had the honour to be acquainted with.

Mr. Brydges knows very well that I did not press for the commission, I desired him two posts ago to delay it two months longer, because I could not undertake it till I brought my own affairs to

bear, and it will be best to continue Sweet, if the war is not to last long. Mr. Thomas Harley has seen him; he is violent for his old friends, and very rich, but is now used to the business.

The new taxes on paper, chequered linen, and silks affect their manufactures very much here. I know nothing will make them sooner weary of the war, they think it is done out of malice, but I desired them to propose other finances, and showed them that whatever they mentioned was already taxed. I cannot but think, and all the best men here assure me that if the French make reasonable proposals the peace will succeed here. I have not been at the Hague since I had the honour to write last, but Mr. T. Harley is so kind to pay me a visit on his way to Hanover. We hear the Duke of Ormond is safe arrived.

The Danish agent was just now with me, praying for a remnant of arrears that is owing them by the Queen for their troops in Flanders. I asked him if the States were no more in their debt, he told me they owed him one hundred and ten thousand pound sterling, and that since October last they had nothing but paper payments, such as obligations and ordinances and some at great discount, so that they have no reason to complain so much of the Queen's payments. Though their minister in England be very solicitous, they are now I believe sorry that they entered in a paper war with this House of Commons about their performances, they dun me every day to know if I have any answer about what share of the assiento they are to have, the magistrates seem to say they have little other difference with England, believing you will agree to the best part of their barrier. I wish they would find out some way to prevent an union of the French and Spanish monarchy if this sickly infant who is now Dauphin should die, for they all give up Spain as impracticable.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, April 17—I am to ask pardon for a mistake I thought myself incapable of, viz., that having written to your Lordship last night for cover of the enclosed, and given the letter to a servant to carry, I found the receipt on my table left out. I have left it without date because you so ordered before, I humbly ask your pardon for the mistake.

The Duke of Ormond to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, [April 25-]May 5, N.S. Ghent—I came to this place on Tuesday last, and go to-morrow to Tournay, where I shall meet the Prince Eugene.

There are forty battalions and twelve squadrons, retrenched between Hordaine and Lein St. Amand, which secure the passage of the Scheldt, the enemy have most of their foot posted from Arras to Palliancourt, and have but sixteen squadrons with them, their horse is on the Somme and on the Sambre. They have put twenty-five battalions into Valenciennes, which place they cannot hinder us from besieging should it be thought for the service, but that place is not of the consequence of either Cambray or Arras. I have not had any letters from England since I received those of the eleventh of the last month, O.S., and am impatient to know how affairs go relating to the peace.

The recruit horses and clothing cannot be at Tournay until Monday or Tuesday next, where the Queen's own troops are encamped. Some of the Imperialists are come to Brussels; the rest of them, with the Palatines, will not join the army until the 15th at soonest.

Postscript.—Mr. Cadogan came here last night and made great professions of his duty and zeal for the Queen's service.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, April 25—I cannot omit returning your Lordship my particular thanks for continuing Mr. Congreve in his little office, for though Mr. Congreve deserves so much your favour, I flatter myself that my solicitation had some weight with you.

In the great uncertainties we are in of news from abroad I will not importune your Lordship for an audience, but when some matters are a little better known I hope you will allow me to press into your presence, for I think I could serve you.

Countess Dowager of Nassau d'Auverquerque to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, April 29—Thanking him for kindness shewn to her son, Count Corneille de Nassau, and asking to have her accounts examined, after ten years depending in the Treasury.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, April 29—I cannot pay the debt I owe to your goodness a better way than by faithfully and impartially representing things to as well as from your Lordship in this nice and difficult time. It was wisely observed by you the last time I had the honour to wait on you that there might come a time when the Dissenters might better be talked to than they can now; it is an unhappy truth that the temper of those honest men is yet so ruffled at the loss of their politic interest, that it threatens their religion, and I find too many of them willing enough to sacrifice the latter to retrieve the former. This makes me, I confess, not at all regret that they are ruined in their politic interest, hoping still that their religious interest shall be established by it, and when all the Dissenters in mask are dropped from them, and nothing but mere conscientious Nonconformity remains, I doubt not you will become their protector as you have always been of honest principles and honest men. Meantime, God deliver your Lordship from a new doctrine in politics which I suppose is taught them by their old masters, viz., that the ministry ought to be prompted and pushed on to all immoderate counsels, that they may be overthrown by them; if this be borrowed from the practice of the late Lord Sunderland with King James, to which they say we owe the Revolution, I can only say to them—"We like the treason, but," &c.

I apply myself to represent to the Dissenters the ground they have lost and the injury they have done themselves by joining into parties and meddling with politics, and to let them see that, being beaten off from these things with loss, and much wounded in the scuffle, the only way they have left to retrieve their figure in the world is to become a religious body as they were at first, and by laying aside

political views and party making, remove effectually from their enemies the pretence, and from others the real apprehensions, of their being dangerous to the Church. Perhaps your Lordship, than whom none knows the temper of the men better, may believe my success improbable; but I hope yet a time for their illumination may come, and I persuade myself you are so much their friend still, though amidst a thousand provocations, as that you would be glad to see it.

I trouble you with nothing relating to Scotland, because the success of the assembly is so near.

J[OHN] URRY to the REV. DR. STRATFORD, at the Rev. Dr. Perkins, near St. Anne's church, Westminster.

1712, April 29. [Oxford]—Yesterday died Mr. John Caswell, but till the bell rang out for him about nine at night it was not known, though everybody knew he was so ill that he could not recover, and expected to hear of his death.

We hear there is one Whitesyde (I think his name is) has made interest by the Lord Cowper to his Grace of Canterbury and that Mr. Hale, that was of Brasenose, has promised to get him Lord Wharton's recommendation to his Grace. This gentleman is of Brasenose College at this time. John Keil I hear puts in for the place; I wish him better success than he had last time he stood. The Archbishop that opposed him then is the same, 'tis true, but the Lord High Treasurer that then was was not his friend, as I presume my Lord High Treasurer now is. 'Tis unlucky that the Duke of Ormond is now abroad, if one of the chief Judges cannot be brought over; Chief Justice Parker did not vote last time, so he will not contradict himself if he may be brought to vote for him. Lord Chief Baron went with his Grace last time, I wish he may not do so again. If they go to election before the Duke of Ormond's return, which I think they need not do, 'tis to be feared they will not admit of his Grace's proxy, and then our friend John may be disappointed once more. But I'm confident all his friends will do their endeavours to assist him, and that he will be very much beholden to you for your good offices amongst your great friends.

I can give you no account of New College; we hear the Visitor is to take cognisance of that matter next Saturday at Chelsea. This afternoon there is a Convocation, amongst other things to be done, Mr. Richardson, who was a Dissenter but now is returned to the Church, is to have his M.A. degree given him, the Dean of Carlisle's letter has done him good service.

WILLIAM BROMLEY, Speaker, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, April 29—The instruction of a drawback to be allowed for the duties laid upon all paper used in the printing any books in the learned languages upon the exportation thereof, I find will be of no advantage to the University of Oxford; so that they printing dearer than in other places, and the University not being the exporters, they will have no ease, and the burden will be so heavy they must lay down their presses. They think they shall have cause to be more concerned for any hardship brought upon them, while I have the honour to be in the chair, and under your Lordship's ministry, whom they look upon as the patron of learning, and their best friend and

protector, than at another time; and therefore I must beg your assistance to make this matter easy, which I am told can no way be turned to their benefit, but by allowing them a certain quantity of paper yearly free from the duty, and that one thousand reams will answer their ordinary expense. Upon this I have discoursed the Auditor and Mr. Lowndes, and they are inclined to gratify our desires, but your Lordship's appearing for us will determine them in it.

I hear you apprehend great difficulties in your House, and that you shall not be able to carry the Lottery Bill in case the inquiry into value of grants is united with it; and I am acquainted that your Lordship is pleased to propose, instead thereof, the passing a Commission forthwith to constitute Commissioners to make such inquiry, and that you will undertake an Act shall pass giving sufficient powers to the Commissioners, and saving their right of sitting in the House of Commons. I should hope this might satisfy those gentlemen who are fondest of the Bill of Grants passing, because if they can attain their end, it is certainly more desirable to attain it in a manner that will not distress and discompose affairs at this juncture; and I will use my best endeavours with them to accept this proposal, if I take it rightly, and your Lordship commands me so to do. Should I not succeed, I must impute it to my own want of credit with our friends, which I fear suffers from my having assured them a great deal more would be done before this time for serving and establishing our common interest, than they have yet seen performed, and in this I have never exceeded what you have given me reason to expect.

Give me leave once more, with the freedom that becomes an unfeigned zeal and affection for your person and service, to say, there wants no inclination in the members of this House of Commons to come into everything that may support you and render your Ministry easy and glorious; there only wants a confidence which will unavoidably increase, the longer the making those thorough changes are delayed, which I am persuaded your Lordship really intends to make, because you have been pleased so often to tell me you would make, and which I think your interest and safety, as well as theirs, require to be made.

William Bromley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, April 30—Permit me to add one word more about the changes. While they are promised and delayed you must expect there will be thrusting who shall enter; and all the competitors, while under suspense, will be impatient and uneasy, but when made, that will be over, and even those that are disappointed will be pleased to see their enemies removed, and hope their own turns will at some time come.

I have had two or three letters this session from Mulemeester at the Hague with general complaints of corruptions and oppressions in the Duke of Marlborough, which he has offered particularly to make appear; but the last post brought me a large packet from him addressed to the House of Commons, in which he says, he has been very particular, and has enclosed his verifications to prove what he charges him with. I should be glad to have your Lordship's thoughts, whether I should take any notice of this to the House or not.

Your Lordship is very obliging in accepting my letter yesterday as it was intended. I can have, I will have, no other view but your service which I will promote all that is in my power.

[Alexander Cunningham] to the Lord Treasurer.

1712, [April 30-]May 10, N.S. The Hague—Having come to this place the 8th I was overjoyed to hear your cousin the envoy was yet here. Unfortunately for me the 9th he went to Rotterdam to see Mr. Vanderwerf's pictures, did not return till night, and my impatience to see him made me think it the longest day in the year. This morning it was with great pleasure that I did myself the honour to wait on him. He remembered me perfectly well, and after having heard that your Lordship and your family were well, we came on the pleasing subject of virtuosoship, which he understands I see perfectly well. Lord Lonsdale was well pleased with his conversation on painting. My Lord and I called at his house this afternoon, but did not meet with him. If we do not see him the morrow, we shall in a few days at Utrecht.

With submission to your Lordship, I intend to speak to the Earl of Strafford of the case of the family of Mirandola, which deserves compassion at this time. Your Lordship knows its antiquity, and that the late Emperor forfeited it and has given it to the Duke of Modena. The heirs petition that it may be restored, and if you will be pleased to intercede with the Queen of Great Britain in favour of the family, you will do a just and generous action, and her Majesty will be ever owned to have been the restorer of that family. It will be objected that the present Duke of Mirandola is in France, and therefore falls under the ban of the Empire of which he is a vassal. To that it may be replied, that he is in France not by choice, nor before he was forced out of his own principality by the Emperor's troops; besides the heirs make it appear by their charters that their tenure and nature of holding are such that the crimes of the present Duke cannot prejudice them, and they ought to be put in possession upon his conviction. So it is in several other tenures in Italy, and if it had not been so, all the Bolognese had been in the hands of the church long ago.

The Imperialists we met on the Rhine, by this time they may be past Brussels. I never saw the people here more jealous of us than at present. My friends here know I have no hand in anything, so endeavour to disabuse them. The wiser sort are of my mind, that is, that England will not abandon them, but as for your Commissioners I have nothing to say for them, let them answer for themselves. If you please to honour me with your commands, direct them for me with Lord Lonsdale, under a cover to Mr. Drummond. We shall be here twenty days longer, then think to come over into England to enjoy the pleasures of a country life.

John Drummond to the Lord Treasurer.

1712, [April 30-]May 10, N.S. Amsterdam—I presumed to trouble your Lordship some posts ago with the melancholy accounts of my unlucky circumstances, and now to my insupportable grief and sorrow, I was obliged to stop payments this day, having paid out the last farthing I had or could command of my partner's and my effects, and all that remains of the public payments or bills, unpaid, is one hundred thousand guilders as Mr. Richard Hoare's third part of the last bill of 312,000 guilders which these gentlemen agreed at the Treasury for, Mr. Pels having paid Sir John Lambert's and Mr. Gibbon's shares, but was unwilling to pay Mr. Hoare's share having deeper engagements with him. I hope your Lordship has secured the public from

any loss by Mr. Hoare, who has the misfortune (very much contrary to my inclination had it been any wise in my power to have prevented) to be deepest concerned with my partner and me, in so far that I am afraid his engagements with us will be near eight thousand pounds, but I hope with God's assistance if Mr. Strafford make any tolerable composition, to be able to pay him and all other who have the misfortune to be concerned with us at least ten shillings in the pound, if I have time and leave to sit six months to my business and that my partner's family will do anything towards his assistance. If our other debts come in gradually we will be able to give a great deal more, for they shall have all that I have or can scrape together for them till they are satisfied that I can do no more. I must beg humbly your Lordship's compassion and assistance, let the employment be never so laborious I am willing to undergo it, and though I be become a poor unlucky young fellow, I hope to convince all reasonable men that I have done nothing that was in my power to prevent, but shall deserve the reputation of an honest man from everyone who knows my hard fate and miserable circumstances. I doubt not Mr. Hoare will make a great clamour, and he has dealt so much on credits that a power of bills may return on him which will straiten him, but if your Lordship may think fit if any complaint comes before you to tell them that I will do them justice to the utmost of my power and that the easier they are to me the better it will be for them. I shall soon convince them, that this is the best advice which can be given them, for if they should prove ill-natured I must endeavour to obtain the State's protection which some friends promise me for my person, and throw our whole effects into the hands of the public, to be equally divided, which costs a great sum to the creditors; but I am sure nobody will persecute me here without investigation from England, being universally pitied, and many came to offer me assistance believing my stop proceeded only from the general want of credit and scarcity of money.

Pensioner Buys has been here two days and the Senate has been constantly almost together since his arrival, he was pleased to show a great deal of concern for me and offered me his assistance, and told me that he was to have this town's resolutions sometime this night, and was to go to-morrow to an extraordinary meeting of the States at the Hague to be back at Utrecht on Friday; that matters were much advanced between the Queen and States of late, and he hoped all jealousies should be removed; that he could not get this town to consent to the sending the two ships which England is to send yearly to the South Sea, being persuaded they could not go there with slaves, and that in everything else they would be easy. I said I hoped so small a matter would make no difficulty, and that I wished the States had come into the Queen's methods with a better grace; he answered that he hoped everything would go now very well with England, but he believed that matters were not yet rightly settled between England and France. He spoke a great deal in commendation of Mr. Thomas Harley, and that he heard the Grand Pensionary was much taken with the conversation he had entertained with Mr. Harley. I hope that the Queen will soon see the fruits of your labour, and the whole nation feel the benefit of it, for if this war continue, there will be no end in the misfortunes of trading men, and misery and poverty will daily increase, and money and credit are so universally scarce that the richest and best men can hardly struggle through their difficulties. I expect my poor, unlucky wife over, who I hope will bring me your Lordship's best advice and some assurance of your protection, which

in this worst of circumstances will be the greatest comfort that can be offered me.

Postscript.—Young Mr. Pels being gone for England by this packet, he earnestly desired a line to your Lordship, which I told him I durst not venture to give him under the present state I was in, but he said he would perhaps make some useful proposal about money matters, and entreated a line, and he would make my excuse, which made me take the freedom to give it him, on condition that Mr. Decker should wait on him to your Lordship, and no other know it.

JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1712, [April 30-]May 10, N.S. Amsterdam—In duty to your Lordship, and also to the bearer, Mr. Pels, eldest son to our famous Banker, Mr. Andrew Pels, I presume to give your Lordship the trouble of this letter, that he may have an opportunity of kissing your Lordship's hands, which he earnestly desired of me, and as nobody has done more here to support the English credit than this young gentleman's father, which I am sure will always recommend him to your Lordship, so his compassion to me in my misfortunes makes me the readier to presume to answer his desire of writing by him to your Lordship, and I humbly beg of you to speak one word to him that his father may continue his good offices to help me through my difficulties, having made appear to him that I design fairly, and as far as it is in my power to give every satisfaction, I hope your Lordship will be pleased to pardon this freedom.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"R[eceived] July 11 by Mr. Pels."

LEOPOLD, DUKE OF LORRAINE, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, May [1-]11, N.S. Luneville—I rely so much upon the promises which the Queen has done me the honour to make, to support my interests in the peace congress, that I cannot refrain from sending some one to England to renew to her Majesty the assurances of my profound respect, and to request, at the same time, the continuance of her royal protection on this important occasion, when the safety of my house is concerned. The Baron de Forstner, who will deliver this letter, has order to address himself to you, and to inform you of the sad condition in which I find myself. You have promised me your friendship with so much generosity that I flatter myself that you will make me feel the effects of it at this juncture.

French.

COL. HORACE WALPOLE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1712, May 2, *endorsed*]—The due respect that is justly paid you at your levées deprives me then of an opportunity to speak to your Lordship; I therefore hope you will once more forgive me troubling you this way earnestly to beg your Lordship will condescend to pitch of *(sic)* some other employment for me than what you have proposed.

I hope Col. Mordaunt's regiment may be thought an equivalent to his merit and that I may be his successor in the Treasurer of the Ordnance for my faithful services, which I'll take upon me to say infinitely exceed [those of] any of the gentlemen whose employments I have asked for.

I live in a county where the generality of the gentlemen are very kind to me, and the rest civil, and if I should return without a reasonable mark of her Majesty's favour, it would surprise the one, please the other, and give a damp, I fear, to my interest. And give me leave to say 'tis thought hard my poor niece should be put by her Majesty's promise to be next maid of honour upon her brother [Robert]'s score, when my Lady Anne brought her up from four years of age, and she is now with us; and she no more a Whig than I am.

The Duke of Atholl to the Lord Treasurer.

1712, May 2. Edinburgh.—I came here Tuesday betwixt three and four o'clock in the afternoon, so that I was but ten days betwixt London and this place, which was a day sooner than I thought I could have made it. I had a fit of the gravel on the road, which however did not hinder me to travel.

Yesterday I went to church and heard sermon, Mr. Cartares, last Moderator, preached as is usual; then went to the place where the assembly meets, it being a part of the said church, where after the rolls of the members were adjusted and called, and the Moderator chosen in the usual manner, my commission as her Majesty's Commissioner to the Assembly was read, and then her Majesty's letter to them, then my speech, after which the Moderator made his, who is Mr. William Hamilton, Professor of Divinity in the College here. He is extraordinarily well qualified for this employment, a prudent and moderate person, and one that I was very much concerned to have chosen Moderator, he carried it but by five or six votes. His being Moderator gives me a great hopes that the Assembly will come to a good issue, though there are some very warm members that I find will insist to have some address in relation to the hardships they think they suffer by the Toleration Bill, and by that part of the Abjuration which relates to the limitations on the successor; I shall do my endeavours to have both prevented. But in case they desire only to address the Queen in the same terms that the Commission of the Assembly did in relation to the Abjuration oath, I desire to know if the Queen will allow it, and if her Majesty does, it is proper there be an instruction sent to me soon for that purpose; for by the Act of Union confirming the Presbyterian Church government, they are not obliged to take any oaths inconsistent with the Presbyterian government.

This morning about three o'clock I was taken ill, and continued so till about eleven that I went to the Assembly, but this day's diet, being only appointed for prayers, as the second day always is, there was no inconvenience by my not being there at the beginning, as some former Commissioners have not been present all the time of prayers.

I have seen the draft of the answer to the Queen's letter, which passed in the Committee this day. I believe it will be passed to-morrow in the Assembly, and then I shall send it to your Lordship by another flying packet. The minutes of the Assembly are inclosed. I expected there should have come orders from her Majesty to stop the marching of one of the Scotch regiments, as I proposed to her Majesty and spoke to your Lordship, and writ in my letter just before I parted from London. Lord Hyndford has orders to begin to march on Monday. There has happened several mobs in this place since an English regiment quartered here, but I hope there shall not more mobs happen for I have spoke very earnestly to the magistrates in

this place, to keep them quiet, and I must do justice to the regiment that is here which is Colonel Kirke's to tell your Lordship they have hitherto carried themselves most discreetly, though they have had several provocations and insults from the unreasonable mob without giving any manner of occasion. I hope the Assembly shall be up the end of the next week or beginning of the week after at farthest.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, May 4. Edinburgh—I did myself the honour to write to your Lordship the 2nd instant by a flying packet giving you an account of the Assembly having met the day before, and what had passed then. I met with them again yesterday and the answer to the Queen's letter was agreed to without a contrary vote. There was some little debate about the placing that part relating to the illustrious House of Hanover, which some thought should be placed in the latter part of that paragraph. There was one Mr. Logan, a minister who appears to be out of his wits, said that he hoped that nothing was done by the Assembly [which] would be understood to approve the Union; he was hushed down by the rest.

There are some warm men amongst them but the majority are pretty moderate, but many incline to insist either on an Address to the Queen, or an Act, or Testimony as they call it, against the late proceeding concerning the Church of Scotland. They are not determined yet which they will insist on, but something of this nature they will certainly desire. I met last night in the Advocate's house (who is not in a condition to go abroad) with the President of the Session, the Moderator, and Mr. Carstares, and they were of opinion it was necessary I should have an Instruction from the Queen as is expressed on the other side of the Memorial, which I desire you will be pleased to represent to her Majesty, that it may be sent to me by a flying packet as soon as can be, for after I get it I shall dissolve the Assembly soon after.

Receive enclosed the Assembly's letter, and one from me to the Queen which I desire you will be pleased to deliver, and let me know by the flying packet, her Majesty's gracious acceptance of it, and that she is satisfied with their expressions of duty and loyalty, which I am to signify to the Assembly before they rise, as is usual. The Moderator sends your Lordship a copy of it, be pleased to let me know your own thoughts of it.

The Rev. William Hamilton, Moderator, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, May 10. Edinburgh—The Duke of Atholl, her Majesty's Commissioner to the Assembly did me the honour this morning to communicate your Lordship's letter which confirmeth what I had often heard before from Mr. Carstares of your Lordship's kind concern for the interest of the Church of Scotland. I learnt also by a line I had from Dr. Blackwell in his Grace's packet the particular instances of it your Lordship is pleased to give at this occasion when her affairs do so much need your assistance. Never an Assembly met at a more critical juncture considering what hath passed of late to make the minds of many amongst us uneasy. But, my Lord, the good choice her Majesty hath made of the Duke of Atholl for her Commissioner, and the harmony and quietness wherewith things have been carried

as yet, give us hopes that possibly we may get through great difficulties that lie before us to rise in peace to her Majesty's satisfaction, though we cannot say anything positively. There are not wanting a good number of discreet and moderate men both Ministers and Elders who spare no pains for that end, and my Lord Commissioner is very concerned about it. Our principal difficulty is occasioned by the Abjuration oath which some scruple upon the ground mentioned in the Commission's Address to the Queen, not at all from any disloyalty. The mention your Lordship was pleased to make of me in yours to Mr. Carstares does me a great honour, I pray I may answer the character your Lordship has so favourably conceived of me. I thought I could do no less in duty than by the trouble of these lines to return my humble thanks assuring your Lordship that, next to the sense I have of duty to God and the interest of religion in these parts, nothing shall be more at heart with me than to contribute my poor endeavour in the station I am in that the Assembly may end quietly and to her Majesty's satisfaction.

RICHARD NORTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, May 11—The week before Easter Mr. Edisbury and Mr. Hunter sent me word that they were then viewing Porchester castle and the channel leading thereto by your Lordship's order. Since that time the country news is that this view was only to bring the neighbouring proprietors of the brew-houses to better terms in case you please to purchase them for her Majesty.

There are about eight acres enclosed within the walls of this castle, there is as I am told room enough for the cooperage also and safe; or if that be too little compass I have land joining to the castle walls, and to have all the matters relating to the brewing centred in one place would not only be of the most conveniency, but save also a considerable expense.

M. DE VARENNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, May 12. London—Thanking him on behalf of M. de Harlay for the kind reception he had given to the memorial sent by him and telling him that it would be a great satisfaction to the President, M. de Harlay's father, if he could see the Earl's answer before his death.

French.

The DUKE OF ATHOLL to the LORD TREASURER.

1712, May 15. Edinburgh—I send enclosed a letter to the Queen which acquaints her Majesty of the good news of the Assembly's happy conclusion, this day about two o'clock. Never Assembly carried more calmly and with more moderation, which your Lordship so kindly wished in the letters you have honoured me with. There were appearances of very great difficulties some days since, and I hear there were very warm debates in their Committees, but when they met in the Assembly all their debates were managed with calmness, and duty to the Queen. I judged a breach betwixt her Majesty and them at this time might be of the worst consequence and have done all in my power to avoid it, and I hope have allowed nothing to pass but

what is most dutiful to the Queen and agreeable to my instructions.

They have made two Addresses to the Queen, one concerning the Abjuration, the other concerning their grievances with relation to the Toleration and patronages, and they have voted two Acts much in the same terms. All were approved by the Queen's Advocate and President of the Session before they were brought to the Assembly; with those two I am ordered to consult in my private instructions, in which they (the Assembly) are allowed to make Address, if it could not be prevented.

In one of the Addresses it was brought in to the Assembly, that the Queen should interpose with the Parliament in the other Address. Where they mention this Church they had said this "afflicted church," but I prevailed with some of the leading members to leave both those words out, thinking those words might be hard on the Queen, which I cannot endure neither to do myself nor allow others that I can possibly hinder, in which I am the reverse to some of the late Ministry, and agree perfectly with your Lordship. I am so fatigued having sat every day in the Assembly, which has met the whole fifteen days, that I can add no more, but entreat your opinion of everything, and my speeches which are enclosed, for your approbation next to the Queen's will be most satisfactory to me.

Postscript.—The Peers that were in the Assembly were very assisting to me, the Earls of Rothes, Buchan, Kilmarnock, and Lord Ross and the Earls of Leven and Hyndford did constantly attend me and assisted. Lord Leven received every day the orders from me. The Provost and Magistrates of this city met me four miles out of town when I came, which they never did to any Commissioner to an Assembly, and I must say that all paid as much respect to me in that station as used to be done to any Commissioner to a Parliament.

I received the honour of your last by the flying packet with the new instruction on Tuesday morning last, and the other with the orders for Lord Leven the day before.

The recruits for Flanders were all shipped this day without any disturbance. There has been no mobs since I came to this place.

The President of the Session and Lord Advocate were also very assisting to me; and the Moderator and Mr. Carstares did all that could be expected of them.

MAJOR HENRY FOUBERT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, May 15—The mighty crowd hindered me yesterday from re-iterating to your Lordship my humble request of being one of the managers of the Lottery, which would relieve me extremely under the trouble I am in.

J. D[RUMMOND] to the REV. DR. STRATFORD, Christ Church, Oxford.

1712, May [16-]27, N.S. Amsterdam—A long letter on the subject of his financial difficulties and Mr. or Capt. [Edward] Gibbon's hard usage of him throughout. "If ever my great friends had any kindness or compassion for me they will now see me a true object of it, and had I not made a poor woman unhappy who must not now be exposed to the world by my misfortunes my friends would get easily rid of me, for I am offered a commission in Lord Albe-

marle's carabineers, which is a trade I never was used to, but rather than be a burden to anyone for my own subsistence or be blamed for detaining one farthing, I would undergo any hardship."

Annexed is "Copy of J. Drummond's letter to Edward Gibbon, Esq." of the same date.

E. Dummer to the Earl of Oxford.

1712, May 16—There is luckily fallen into my knowledge, by means of a friend, certain valuable manuscripts of Sir Bulstrode Whitlock's, most written by his own hand, viz.: four small folio, His Embassy into Sweden, and twenty-two State Tracts, &c., most in large folio. I know none with whom they will either be more privately or publicly useful and more acceptable than to your Lordship; only one person has seen them, and has said they are valuable things. I have not seen them myself but may when I will. I believe I can procure them for you with some ready money.

Lord Johnstone to the Earl of Kinnoull.

1712, May [18-]29, N.S. Utrecht—People imagine that London is the scene of action because they see no great throng of business here, and the Earl of Strafford and Monsieur Maffey's going over has confirmed them, though we don't hear at the Coffee-house (from whence I have all my intelligence) that any other of the Princes have yet made any detachment. I am told our journey is now fixed to Monday first. I suppose your Lordship will wonder less than I at our long stay in this country, because you know better the occasion; for my share I am in utter darkness and can find no appearance of being enlightened on this side, though I must own if I knew a little in relation to myself I would be much easier. I have not heard anything yet from the Lord High Treasurer. I did myself the honour to write to him some time ago, and must beg you to put him in mind of it and endeavour to procure me an answer, for without his directions I shall not know in a little time how to dispose of myself. Next to receiving a good answer which from anything I see here I have no great reason to hope, it will be most obliging to let me know frankly that there is nothing to be done, that I may be at liberty to dispose of myself and turn my thoughts another way.

Since the post came in this day, our journey is put off for some days longer and it is reported that Count Sinzendorf, Don Lewis D'Acuna and Monsieur Mesnager are to make you a visit and that the Congress will thus by degrees be adjourned to Canterbury, but this is all still coffee-house, and as little to be depended upon as the productions of Grub street. We have got several added to our company but none so much to my satisfaction as Mr. Hay, who is come up hither this day from Amsterdam to make the journey with us.

The Duke of Ormond to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, [May 25-]June 4, N.S. The Camp at Solesmes—This is the fourth letter that I have done myself the honour to write to you without hearing from you, which I believe the multiplicity of business is the cause of.

I send this to let you know that I have done all I could to keep secret and to disguise the orders that I received from her Majesty by

Mr. Secretary St. John, but it is above ten days since I received the Queen's pleasure, and now, I can't make any more excuses for delaying entering into action. When I was pressed to it, I made my Lord Strafford's sudden journey to England my excuse and desired that I might hear from England before I undertook anything. I have been again pressed this day by two of the deputies in their master's names to know if I would undertake anything in conjunction with them. I still made the same answer, that I had not heard from England, but expected letters every moment. This would not satisfy, nor could I give any other answer, being as you know obliged to keep secret the orders I have received. I will not trouble you with more of this subject for Mr. Secretary St. John's letter will inform you of all this matter.

I am very impatient to hear, when I may own what I am to do, for the situation that I now am in is very disagreeable as may easily be believed.

The Earl of Orkney to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, [May 25-]June 4, N.S. Camp at Solesmes—When I had the honour to dine with you the day before I left London, I took the liberty to acquaint you that I had a bill drawn by Colonel Hunter upon the Treasury for eight hundred pounds which I advanced out of my salary of Virginia above a year ago for the expedition of Canada. Parkes tells me there are still delays in that affair. I really left it to my Lady Orkney as ready money to pay off some debts that were very pressing, and I am afraid she may be put to more difficulties than is fit for me to express if the payment be delayed any longer, so I most humbly beg you would give directions for the payment of it.

I don't know anything to entertain you with here for we have been daily in expectation to hear the Peace declared, and the inaction that appears here makes everybody conclude it done, which I hope in God is true. I shall now take the liberty to acquaint you what Prince Eugene's army and the Dutch say, that it is in our power to go about the source of the Scheldt and attack the French army, which they believe they durst not stand, with the superiority we certainly have; and if we won't do that it is in our power to besiege Quesnoy and Landrecy, both which places are but inconsiderable, and would be taken in a short time, which gives us a sure entry into France without passing the Soame, and brings us upon the Oise; which they are pleased to say were they once there, they believe the French would not be long of concluding a peace to the satisfaction of all parties; and they pretend to say that it is demonstration this is to be effected in a very short time. As to my own opinion I am very little able to judge, but I wish a peace without either battle or siege. However, I hope you'll pardon the liberty I take to let you know the discourse that passes here, and don't doubt but we shall soon hear of a glorious peace which will make your Lordship famous to posterity. If I may take the liberty to put your Lordship in mind of Sir James Abercromby, he is now wanted here.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, May 27—Though my observations in this letter should not be just yet my zeal for your interest and the public good shall plead I hope with you, if it should not be according to knowledge.

The article published yesterday in the postscript to the " Flying Post," viz.: " that when the Generals of the Confederates were resolved to attack the enemy, the British General pulled out the Queen's order not to fight or undertake a siege," occasions this.

This is told in such a manner and received with such a temper as raises a mighty popular clamour and does much mischief through the nation.

If the fact is not true, I need not hint to you what resentment the publishing it calls for from the Government, for though I am none of those who prompt the misfortunes of my neighbours, yet Governments as well as private men sometimes find it necessary to do themselves justice. On the other hand if the thing be fact, I cannot but think it receives such a complete justification in practice, from the constant conduct of the Dutch, of the Imperialists and other Confederates; and there are such justifiable reasons to be given for such a conduct at this time, that might I receive the least remote hint from your Lordship, something might easily be said without doors that would take off all the edge of the popular surprise some people think they have raised in the nation, and turn all the mischief against themselves. If you please but to hint your commands to Mr. Read by a single *yes* or *no* it is enough to be understood by me and shall be immediately obeyed, I hope to your satisfaction. I mean by *yes* and *no* only, whether *yes* or *no* such a historical deduction of practice from our idolized allies may be thought useful at this time to do her Majesty justice and to check the loud clamours of a Party who watch for all occasions to inflame us.

I humbly ask your pardon for this motion.

[John Drummond to ————.]

1712, [May 28-]June 7, N.S. Amsterdam—Upon the news from the Army that the Duke of Ormond had produced the Queen's orders not to act offensive, neither to engage in any battle or siege, Prince Eugene sent several expresses to Vienna and other Courts in Germany and to Count Sinzendorff, complaining that the Duke had kept the Queen's orders secret to the last extremity, when there was the best opportunity of beating the French army that could be wished for, and desired the Count to represent it in the most earnest manner to the States how ill the Emperor and his allies were treated on this occasion. Upon which the States General resolved to send one of their messengers and since two expresses to England by fisher boats, which are no doubt got safe over, the wind being fair; and they nominated the Treasurer Hop and Mons. Welderen, both gentlemen who are very earnest for pushing the war, to go as extraordinary deputies to the field, and, as it was reported, to take the foreign troops (who are on the Queen's pay) into the States' pay.

Mons. Hop, who was once Pensionary of this town, and whose relations are amongst the magistracy, particularly Burgomaster Hooft is married to his sister, came first to this town, and the Senate was called together, where he proposed to the four governing Burgomasters Corver, de Haas, Pancras, and Trip, to advance a great sum of money extraordinary on this occasion of the Duke of Ormond's refusing to act, by which the States might take the foreign troops on their pay which are now on the pay of England, and thereby to oblige them to join with Prince Eugene and to give battle to the enemy, though the national British troops, who consist, as he said, only of about ten

or twelve thousand men should draw off and not act. Mons. Vander Dussen came here at the same time but incognito. Our four Burgomasters said they thought the States had enemies enough and too little money already, and therefore they could not resolve to break with England, though they thought this State very ill treated, that they were kept so long in the dark about the affairs of peace by England, yet unless the States General resolved entirely to carry on the war on a new foot and so make a new state of war they could advance no more money than their share, which they had done by anticipation. The Treasurer pressed very earnestly, at last, as I am told, Burgomaster de Haas told him that he knew of no money the town had to lend or advance, that he hoped the Treasurer would not have them meddle with the bank, for that was none of theirs, and if the merchants would lend it him, they should be very well pleased. In short after long and earnest solicitation the Treasurer returned to the Hague without any money or promises, and this town is resolved to see what sort of a peace is to come from England e'er they engage in a new war. A letter wrote by Lord Strafford to Mons. Van Leyda, one of the chief men of the city of Leyden and for the peace, fell into wrong hands as his Excellency went over; it makes some noise though there was only an appointment in it and no business.

[Sir Scipio Hill to the Earl of Oxford.]

[1712,] June 2—For these eight or ten days the discourse runs upon a division amongst you. I do not know whether the generality guess the true reason of the discord, but the well-wishers of a great majority are of your side, your Lordship being looked upon as the man of the most temper and as one that doth not love to walk upon the brink of a precipice.

I beg the favour that you let me have the hundred pounds that you promised me six weeks ago to-day, for I want it exceedingly, and that your Lordship after so many reiterated promises would do something for me that is worth while.

Petkum by a familiar letter last post begs for a pension of the Parliament in regard of his faithful services at Gertruydenberg, the Duke of Marborough promised him golden mountains but he got nothing, a pair of hundreds a year would be very acceptable, and might prove a means to lay some things open that are hidden as yet.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, June 2. Dunkeld—I have not yet had the honour to hear from your Lordship that you had received mine giving the account of the good conclusion of the Assembly.

I beg leave now to put you in mind to speak to her Majesty to order the commission of Extraordinary Lord of the Session for me, for which I had the honour to kiss her Majesty's hand before I left London. The Session meets this day at Edinburgh where I should have gone to be admitted, if the commission had come down, which I now humbly expect.

I went to see the Duchess of Hamilton after the Assembly was up, having heard she was dangerously ill, and I came home but last week, after having stayed a week at Huntingtower. And now when I was

in hopes to have continued some time at home after so much fatigue of travelling and yet greater in the Assembly my friends at London write to me, that by the English Acts of Parliament I am obliged to qualify within three months after being admitted the Privy Council which your Lordship knows there was no time for me to do before I came away.

I entreat your Lordship will let me have your directions what I shall do in this, and if it be agreeable to the law that I could qualify in Scotland, for another London journey so soon will be not only very inconvenient, but also very expensive. What the Queen was pleased to allow me for the Assembly I not only laid out but considerably more of my own on that occasion.

I heartily wish all imaginable success to the Peace which your indefatigable pains and good management have brought so great a length.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, June 5—I am humbly to ask your pardon that the enclosed books have been so long coming out. But the case proves longer than I expected to make it.

The sincerity of my design is my apology to your Lordship for the performance. It is written without doors, and for the use of those chiefly who know nothing but without doors. I hope it may be useful to undeceive an abused people, and let them see how the whole nation was forming into one tribe of Issachar and taught to couch under the tyranny of our neighbours to bear what burthen was imposed upon them by those who always took care by loading us to ease themselves.

I send also another book to your Lordship in answer to the Dutch memorials, in all which you will perceive an honest but artless design of opening the eyes of a people so imposed upon, and so tenacious of their own mistakes, as leads them to a world of troublesome and dangerous excesses. Your goodness will pass the errors of performance; it is my satisfaction to be serving your interest and doing the people good together. I am far from exciting the people against the Dutch, and believe it is not the Government's view to injure or to break with the Dutch; but it seems necessary and I believe it is your aim to have the Dutch friends and not masters, confederates not governors; and to keep us from a Dutch as well as a French management.

I shall go on to open the eyes of the injured people in these the more cheerfully if my service in it is approved and accepted by your Lordship.

[John Drummond to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, June [5-]16, N.S. Amsterdam—When the first news came here that the Duke of Ormond had received orders only to act defensive, I presumed to trouble your Lordship with an account of the reception which Monsr. Hop met with here before he went on his deputation to the Army. I sent my letter by Mr. George Hay, who was then going over with the Fleet which lay wind bound, having heard that even the Queen's messenger would come too late to the packet. Your Lordship's kinsman gave me the honour of a visit since and received the resolution of the House of Commons, and her Majesty's

very reasonable answer, and all that happened till the first instant your style. He has since sent me the Speech and the Commons vote of an address of thanks and that we may expect the same good manners will be shown to her Majesty from the House of Lords, all which has been communicated here where it could be of any use and was received with much satisfaction; only the heartiest for peace made this declaration, that seeing we had gained several towns since the demands of 1709, they expected that nothing would be taken from that demand in the barrier, and if it were that England must count upon it that neither Lille, nor Tournay, Namur, nor Charleroy, nor Yperen must be the places, and as to the commerce that they expected it without any exception on the foot of the tariff of 1664, and would insist particularly on that of the whalebone and train or whale oil. They believed also that the States would insist to have some part of the garrison of Gibraltar on the present foot, but I told them that I believed their ministers had yielded that entirely to the Queen. They seem glad that the Queen has gained the Duke of Savoy, which will make the Emperor come to the better, and they wish the King of Prussia may be also come into the Queen's ministers. The Muscovites and King Augustus are marching so great an Army into Pomerania that we fear the King of Prussia may grow jealous and call too soon for some of his forces from Flanders.

Great pains have been taken here to foment the common people and they grew very ill-natured, but they seem to cool already, and as soon as their villanous Gazettes cease from writing in that scandalous manner which the faction dictates to them and pays them for, the people will grow reasonable. The Burgomasters have often said, if any complaint be made by the Queen's ministers they would redress that grievance very soon, but nobody has thought it worth the while, though a great many honest men here think it were necessary. Petkum has been working here by Count Sinzendorff's countenance as if he were employed by the Maréchal de Uxelles to get this State to propose a new scheme of peace, more favourable to them, but I do not find that he has any ingression here, and two of our Burgomasters are so incensed at him that they have discharged him their house.

Count Taroca is esteemed an ill instrument here against the peace, and therefore people say that the Queen has taken the less care of his master, and he begins to say now that he and his father have given the King of Portugal wrong advice and are now sorry that they did not encourage the separate peace which his King was making last summer.

The men-of-war which were made ready on Sir James Wishart's desire they pretend now are a needless expense; they are lying at the Texel and men have been scarce. We have a great many ships at sea, and very well disposed of for the security of our trades, and they begin to complain that Sir John Jennings refuses to convoy the German transports from Italy to Barcelona, so that Admiral Peterson must do that alone.

The States of Holland meet now every week, and they were talking of a new lottery, but this was only given out to keep their own money at home from going into yours.

My Lord Strafford is now much longed for, and though his Excellency has not had the good luck to be universally beloved, yet they seem rather willing that he should return than a new one, and they fear Sir Thomas Hanmer most, for they think he brought over with him the Queen's orders for the Duke of Ormond not to act offensive and never opened them till the opportunity of fighting offered; and then

the House of Commons representation, which they think Sir Thomas the author of, sticks in their stomach.

This day upon the Exchange a message was sent me to come to one of our great men, and his chief errand was if I could tell him or guess what two or three places the Queen could not obtain for them, because if they were not of the most considerable this town would give very good instructions to their deputies at the Hague; and if they were of the most considerable they must certainly carry on the war; and that if the Queen had obtained them the barrier and the tariff of '64 without any exception, that it would have been a much easier thing for this town to have pushed for a sudden peace. All the answer I durst venture to give was that if the States had entered heartily with the Queen into the treaty, that it was very probable those exceptions had been removed, and the only way to remove them would be for the States to enter into the Queen's measures. He said he wished as a private man that he could have had some certainty about the towns, because the Imperial ministers were pushing the States to come to a declaration and joint resolutions upon the subject of the Queen's speech. I told him, that the wind being fair Lord Strafford would be soon over and then the States might soon hear the Queen's resolutions upon the Parliament's addresses to her Majesty to make a speedy peace.

I have now wearied your Lordship's patience with our Amsterdam politics, and we have no other news but the Pretender's going to live on the Prince of Vaudemont's estate in Lorraine; and that Mons. Grovestyn's incursion into France and his return through Lorraine find no universal approbation, and that we fear the French may soon make reprisals of that nature either on the States' dominions or in the Empire.

I must now take the freedom to trouble your Lordship with a few lines on the melancholy subjects of my own misfortunes &c.

The Earl of Orkney to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, June [11-]22, N.S. Chateau Cambresis. Congratulations on the expected peace.

I having now served both wars without bettering my fortune in any manner, recommend myself and family to your thoughts and care. I hear the Duke of Argyll has got the command in Scotland, with the Castle and Ordnance, Ireland is provided for, I hope then I may expect to be some way taken care of in England. We are told Lord Rivers is very ill, if any accident should happen to him may I not very justly ask the Ordnance; for if at the peace I lose my general's pay without some consideration I have spent these last twenty years of my life to little purpose.

I have seen none of the Dutch yet since the Queen's Speech came, so don't know how they reason. They opened trenches three days ago before Quesnoy; I think they had done as wisely to have delayed it a day or two longer till they had seen the Queen's Speech. I am sure they can't go through with this affair if the Duke of Ormond's army don't remain here.

Lord Balmerino to the Earl of Mar.

1712, June 11. Edinburgh—The Lord Blairhall not agreeing with the goat milk is returned to his house to die, I believe I shall soon

have an occasion to advertise you of it by an express. Your Lordship knows the dependence I have upon you, and though I cannot much doubt but your interest with the Queen will procure my son James to succeed him in session and justiciary, especially after what the Lord Treasurer said to me at parting (of which I writ you an account), yet the Duke of Hamilton's importunity and the endeavours of Earl Ilay for Mr. Carnegie, or rather as I am told for Mr. Stuart in the Exchequer, gives me some little disquiet, since I know their endeavours will be hearty. I cannot believe that Earl Ilay will get the Duke of Argyll to concern himself against my son, since a few days ere he went for Spain he promised to recommend him to the Queen.

This day we expect to hear good news about the Peace which we are are told was last Friday to be before the two Houses. I wish a good account of that and of our Scots Peerage, and of settling Scots affairs on such a foot as may at least hinder the ruin of our poor country.

I can give your Lordship no account (that is to be depended on) what the noble lords of the Squadron were doing at their pompous meetings here, I spoke with none of them, but Lord Haddington, with whom I had very general discourse in the street.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, June 16—My attending the other day was principally to congratulate your Lordship on the successes of your late management on account of the peace, and to have given you an account of the influence it has among the parties; how many of the wisest begin to open their eyes and be easy, while the rest rather rage that they can do no mischief than hope to obstruct your measures. Withal I purposed to have acquainted you with an extraordinary congress of the Squadroni just now at Edinburgh; whether the affair they meet about be worth your Lordship's notice or not, is not my province. The avowed occasion is (as I hear, but do not assert) to consult the Advocate, and other lawyers about the form of an association, &c., and also to consider how to act, at the ensuing election of a Peer in the room of Lord Marischall. This I thought it my duty to lay before you, and shall be able to send more particulars as they go on.

If you would be pleased to allow me so much freedom, I would express my apprehensions from the warmth of his Grace of Argyll in his new command, unless he be restrained by your authority; a middle way with temper and prudence may yet preserve the peace of that country, and cultivate her Majesty's interest there. But, alas, it is no slander on his Grace to suggest, that these are not the greatest part of his Grace's character. The only security of that uneasy people is in your Lordship's wisdom, and this makes me officiously lay these things so often before you, for which I humbly ask your pardon.

J. J. Caesar, Minister of the Prussian Church in the Savoy, to [John Chamberlayne ?].

1712, June 16. London—The bearer can give you full information of the miserable condition of about two hundred and forty poor Palatines, lately returned from Ireland. Their most humble request is only for a free transportation by the first convoy to Holland, which has most graciously been granted to the rest, and as they in their

present distress have addressed themselves to me as one of the ministers of the Protestant foreign churches in this city, so could I in Christian compassion with their great misfortune no ways refuse them these lines; wherewith I would have them seriously recommended also to your wonted Christian pity, that by your good advice and assistance they may obtain the aforesaid favour from her Majesty; for the poor creatures have been perfectly deluded and tricked by ill people into this labyrinth, as most of them have confessed to me with tears, The Lord who hath declared himself as well for the stranger as for the widow and fatherless will be your reward.

H[ENRY] St. JOHN to [THOMAS] HARLEY.

1712, June 18. Whitehall—An official letter of instructions concerning Harley's mission to Hanover, which concludes:—You will have from my office an account of what passed yesterday in Parliament. It was an endeavour to surprise us at this time that the House is so thin, the aim seems to have been, if it succeeded, by a side wind to have cast a reflection on the Queen's measures, as if the Protestant succession had not been sufficiently taken care of; and, at the same time, to vindicate the treaty of Barrier, which has been so severely censured this session, by showing the necessity of having such guarantees. *Signed.*

DR. FRANCIS ATTERBURY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1712, June 19,] Thursday. Chelsea—I this moment received the enclosed from my Lord Bishop of Winchester, which I apprehend he wrote to me on purpose that I might show it to your Lordship, and takes this way of beginning to ask a favour of you, which I doubt not but he will sue for in person, upon any encouragement given him to hope for success. I shall see him to-morrow early, by appointment; and humbly beg a line of direction from your Lordship this night if it be possible, whether I shall try to induce him to apply directly to your Lordship when he meets you in Parliament. I have prepared the way towards this application so far as to send the Bishop word, that I would endeavour, if I could possibly, to learn whether the disposal of this Prebend were already irrevocably fixed, and I will humbly hope that it is not, if your Lordship shall give me leave to put the Bishop upon asking it. Should your Lordship please to do this thing at the Bishop's request (which I hope your Lordship may have intentions to do without it), I am very sure it will produce all the good effects your Lordship can desire. The Bishop's letter will show your Lordship what a disposition of mind he is in. If it be favoured, he will certainly go on, till he is entirely your Lordship's servant. He has by me this morning invited the Speaker to dine with him on Tuesday next, and is every day more and more changing both his language and his company; and I am glad of my long stay in town on this account that it has given me some opportunities of promoting these good inclinations.

The Prolocutor comes to town with the Oxford Address on Tuesday morning. I would not be absent, when that is delivered; else I should have begged your Lordship's commands on Sunday next, in order to my setting out next day.

I cannot omit this occasion of expressing to your Lordship my fears, that this back game which the Bishop of Ely has played will be of mischievous consequence, as it seems to have drawn the Queen into a step, not altogether of a piece with the answer she gave us, and tends to weaken the authority of the judgment, under a pretence of delivering it with greater solemnity. That is merely a pretence; for it cannot be subscribed to-morrow by above eight Bishops nor by double that number of the lower clergy. So few hands will not give any great credit to anything which they sign.

I presume again humbly to request an intimation from your Lordship whether I shall put the Bishop upon applying to your Lordship to-morrow.

Postscript.—The Dean of Lichfield died this morning.

Lord North and Grey to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, June [19-]30, N.S. Solesmes—I begged the government of Dunkirk and hope that, if her Majesty is to have it, your Lordship has laid that request before her; 'tis my ambition, and would be happiness to be rewarded where I have done some service, in Flanders. But if our good allies, *alias* mercenaries, by their refusing to obey orders to march with us, have hindered that benefit to England, or if her Majesty is only to have it demolished, has your Lordship forgot a sort of promise of Portsmouth to me? If you have, I will too, and only beg I may come for England; for if you either cannot or will not obtain anything for me, in vain are my hopes; I am predestinated to die a country gentleman. There is no occasion to merit more as a soldier, if it would profit me, I therefore beg either reward or ease.

Henrietta, Marchioness of Huntly to ———

[1712,] June 20. Gordon Castle—As I believe there are few of your country men that have either so much inclination or power to serve their country as yourself, I hope it will be excuse enough for the trouble I am now giving you, in the behalf of a vast number of people who are like to be extremely oppressed by the Whigs. I shall give you as short an account as I can of the matter, and the enclosed is a true representation of the whole affair.

I do not doubt but that you know the town of Elgin, the principal of the shire of Moray, where the Provost, Baillies, and whole magistracy, as well as by far the greatest part of the town and country about it, are Episcopalians and have had a long time amongst them the Liturgy of the Church of England. A considerable time ago the aforesaid magistrates built at their own expense a chapel, now called the little church of Elgin, kept it a long time in repair, and made an allowance to a minister, all this out of their own private pockets. Notwithstanding all this, when the opportunity favoured, the Presbyterian ministers got possession of the said chapel, and have kept it some years until the 29th day of May last, at which time the Provost and Baillies sent to the officer that kept the key of the chapel and ordered him to deliver it to them, which he immediately did; and they gave it to one Mr. Robert Blaire, son to one of the Episcopal ministers of Aberdeen, who used to serve them in their meeting house, and ordered him to read the service for

that day, which he did. They have continued Divine worship in that chapel every Sunday since that time, I was there one of the days myself and never saw a church of the bigness fuller. The magistrates thought they could never have so good an opportunity of re-possessing themselves in what they call their own as immediately after the late Act of Toleration, and also at a time when her Majesty has been pleased so graciously to show her kindness to the poor Episcopalians in giving them all the remains of the Bishop's rents. All these reasons, with the hopes of a happy and sudden peace which will establish for ever the hearts of the well meaning people to the present Ministry, have given them at this time so much courage, and it would be a thousand pities that they should be discouraged at this time.

However the Whigs were so enraged that they have sent expresses to Edinburgh and have obtained criminal letters from Sir James Stewart, her Majesty's Advocate, and the Provost and Baillies are called before the Lords of Justiciary in order to be tried before them in July next, and I am assured that one line in their favour from my Lord Treasurer to Sir James Stewart or to my Lord Ilay the Justice General, would immediately cause the said process to drop, and leave these poor people in possession of this little church. I forgot to let you know that at the same time that Sir James Stewart sent these criminal letters, he writ to the magistrates to endeavour to persuade them to a friendly agreement, upon which they only asked the use of the said church upon Sundays, and would consent the Presbyterians might make the same use of it as they did before, which was only of week days. But this would not do, they would have it entirely to themselves. Now, Sir, I must beg your pardon for taking up so much of your time, but in doing this you will do your country in general a singular service, and of all places in Scotland the Episcopalians should be most encouraged in this place, for they have such a hatred to Presbytery that if they want their own ministers they rather choose to turn Roman Catholic than go to the Kirk, and I assure you there is no want of priests of that kind who lose no opportunity of getting proselytes. I dare say my Lady Masham will second your request to my Lord Oxford upon so good and so just an occasion, by which she will get the praises and good wishes of abundance of poor people. I durst not trouble my Aunt Scarbrough about this for I know she does not care to meddle in such things, and as my father was abroad, I could not find so proper a person as yourself.

Caleb Heathcote to the Earl of Oxford.

1712, June 21. New York—I am very sensible how great a presumption it is in me to write to a nobleman of your Lordship's rank, character and station, but it is with a true and sincere intent to advance the interest of that nation which you so faithfully serve; and I beg the favour of my Lord of London to give you a character of me, with whom I have had the honour of a fifteen years' correspondence relating to the settlement of the Church in North America. What I have principally to lay before your Lordship is the great abuses and mismanagements which not only now is, but hath been constantly practised in these parts of her Majesty's dominions, for above twenty years past in relation to the

men-of-war stationed for securing these coasts and trade, in which the charge is not only double of what it might be reduced to, under a just and prudent direction, but after all that cost, the coast remains unsecured, the merchants ruined in their trade, and the enemies' plantations supplied with provisions, when if matters were well and carefully managed, with a great deal less than half the expense, trade would be effectually made safe, and the enemies' plantations reduced, many times under difficulties hard enough for them to subsist whose chief dependence for their support being from what their privateers pillage from us.

I did some time ago lay before Colonel Hunter, Governor of this Province, two schemes relating to these affairs, and the merchants of this city did likewise address the Governor on the same subject, of which he having sent duplicates to your Lordship in the *Laistoff*, it will be needless to trouble you further therewith. Did I not firmly believe I could do the Crown the greatest and best piece of service which of that kind hath ever been done the nation by any man, I would not have been thus troublesome to your Lordship. In one of the schemes laid before Colonel Hunter you will find I have proposed that five galleys sufficient to carry twelve guns, one hundred and twenty men, and thirty oars each, being built here, might be maintained for 2,500*l.*, for which sum the merchants here will undertake her, and be at all the charges of cleaning, refitting, victualling, manning, and all common wear and tear, and to keep her constantly crossing from the beginning of April until it is proper to lay her up against winter. By this rule, the victualling, manning, refitting, and all contingent charges of the five galleys, will only amount to 12,500*l.* sterling a year, nor will the building and completely fitting the whole five sail amount to above 6,000*l.* sterling, and doubt not, but they may be contracted for a less sum. That the whole charge in building, and afterwards maintaining, all the galleys for a year, will not exceed the charge the Crown is annually out for the two men-of-war now belonging this Port, and one galley would do more real service than both of them, and be a greater terror to the Pirates, those of them who annoy our coast being seldom larger than from four to eight guns. I would not be understood as if I believed these galleys a sufficient security for this coast, for I am very far from being of that opinion, because these great privateers, or a number of small, might attacking our galleys singly, either take or chase them into our harbours and then ravage our coast and this is what must be expected and provided against, for they having so long had their constant supplies of provisions from us, will undoubtedly do all they can to prevent their starving, they got abundance of our vessels last summer, one crepo belonging to Martinico took no less than twenty-eight sail for his share; that I am humbly of opinion notwithstanding, the Crown should think fit to appoint these galleys. Two men-of-war, one of fifty and one of thirty guns, with a galley of sixteen guns and thirty or forty oars, being formed into a small squadron, should be kept constantly cruising without the galleys along the coast, and whereas there are several men-of-war which attend the Virginia fleet as convoys, if they were likewise directed, whilst the merchant men are taking in their loading, to be cruising for the security of the coast, it would greatly add to our safety, without any new charge to the Crown, and be so far from being prejudicial to the service, that the vessels would not only be kept from receiving any damage by the worm, but the men would be preserved from desertion, and in health.

By these methods our trade would be well secured, and a privateer would not dare to appear upon it, nor would the charge of two ships of war and six galleys as proposed, be above thirty thousand pounds sterling a year under an honest and prudent management, which North America, proper measures being taken, is able enough to bear; and if in order thereunto the several governments on the whole coast were made acquainted that, in case they would not settle a revenue for the support of Government and their own security, that the Parliament do it for them, it being unreasonable that the nation of Great Britain which is in a manner mortgaged for our liberty, security, and defence, as well as their own, should be at so vast an expense to guard us, and the Queen laid under so many difficulties to support the Governors, when we might with so much ease do all of it ourselves. For if the custom and excise was settled through all this coast in the same manner as was formerly in this port a tonnage of two or three shillings a ton on all vessels trading to and from these parts, and due care taken in regulating the quit rents, the whole revenue in all the governments would amount to 50 or 60,000*l.*, and as 20,000*l.* a year well husbanded will be enough to support the several governments, so there will be a surplus of 30,000*l.* towards defraying the sea charge, which will very near if not altogether answer it; but then effectual care must be taken that the Governor and Council in the respective provinces have not the disposal thereof, but be limited in the sums they are to draw out of the revenue for themselves and officers, with a certain allowance for contingent charges. Because if it is otherwise no income will exceed their expense. When the revenue of the Province was settled none of the Governors except Colonel Fletcher ever made it hold out, nor could it be expected, for I have known a Governor in one journey to Albany spend 2,200*l.*, and the accounts that year were filled with so many extravagant articles, which swelled the charges of the Government that year to 8,000*l.* when the Governor knew the whole revenue would not exceed five thousand pounds or thereabouts. By these imprudent measures, the Province in a few years was run into twenty thousand pounds debt, which remains unpaid to this day, and this, my Lord, was the chief reason why the Assembly could never be prevailed upon to settle the revenue again, and in private conversation gave for their reasons, that let the Assembly raise money never so fast, the Governors had ways enough to sink it.

We have now four men-of-war belonging to this port and Virginia, of all which there is but one as yet clean and fit to go on a cruise. This mistake is chiefly occasioned by the liberty which the men-of-war have of spending the winter in the West Indies, and not taking care to return early enough, and to refit so as to be at sea when the privateers appear on our coast. Of the other three men-of-war I believe one more may be fit for sea latter end of next month, and the other two in August. By these mistakes the privateers, who are very numerous on our coast, will be able to make what voyages on us they please; to prevent these and the like misfortunes for the future, it would I am humbly of opinion be advisable, that the Governors in conjunction with the Council, by new orders and instructions, were empowered to take effectual care that the captains duly performed their duties, and be directed at the conclusion of every year to send a particular account of the behaviour of every captain. In that scheme laid before Colonel Hunter wherein I proposed five galleys being stationed on this coast for its defence, I humbly gave my opinion

that one of them ought to be stationed at Boston and cruise towards Road Island, that of Road Island begin from the western cruise of that belonging to Boston, and thence to the middle of Long Island, that of New York begin there and cruise towards Delaware, that of Delaware in the like manner meeting that of New York and thence towards Virginia, and that of Virginia beginning at the western cruise ,and thence to the southward of Virginia, and the two men-of-war and the galley cruising without these galleys, and likewise the ships of war belonging to the Virginia convoy, doing the same. The coast will thus be secured as with a chain, not only against privateers and pirates, but all illegal traders, of which a great deal is carried on, especially in time of peace, very much to the prejudice of Great Britain, in respect of their manufactures.

In one of the schemes laid before Colonel Hunter I proposed employing several hands in raising and procuring of naval stores; but being disappointed in the hemp seed which Mr. Perry promised to send the Governor, I could not proceed therein as I intended, so have not made use of any of the Queen's hands, being willing to defer that until her Majesty's pleasure was known, however I am making some small essays on every branch at my own expense, viz.: I am preparing to build the sloop I proposed; I have built one saw mill and am preparing to build two more. I have sowed a small quantity of hemp seed and a pretty deal of flax, and although I should receive no result from the Crown concerning my proposals, I intend, God willing, this fall, to prepare land against spring for one hundred and fifty or two hundred bushels hemp seed, and in case her Majesty is not pleased to have the designs go forward, I can without much detriment to my private fortune convert these preparations to other uses.

If it should so happen that none of my proposals already made be approved of, I do most humbly make this further tender, that if her Majesty will give me leave to list eighty or a hundred men, and add them to the four regular companies, and that I may have their pay and subsistence paid to my order in England, or so many not exceeding that number as I can conveniently get or deliver in list for, I will for the value I receive on the account of one half of those men oblige myself to deliver naval stores for her Majesty's service here, on the following prices, viz.: rigging at twenty-five pounds sterling a ton, two-inch oak plank at six shillings sterling the hundred feet, and other plank and timber in proportion, sail cloth of forty-two lbs. weight for forty-five shillings sterling a bolt, and her Majesty finding the arms, and giving them each a whole clothing, and I will always be obliged to have arms and clothing ready for them, and disciplined so as to be fit to join the regular troops in case of invasion; and for the other half of the hands I will employ them on naval stores in the same manner as I do those I am accountable for, and with an equal care for her Majesty's best advantage. As for the four companies, notwithstanding the Queen allows one hundred private sentinels for each independent company, yet by reason of the invalids and of many others, who work constantly abroad without ever appearing in any of the garrisons to do their duty, and of boys and children which are listed by the officers, the companies never are, nor have been above seventy or seventy-five effective men; that if orders were sent to discharge all the invalids, and that none might be allowed to muster but such as actually attended the service, and that directions were given which of the officers should be allowed to have their boys and children listed. Were this done, I doubt not but room might be

found in the four companies for the fifty or one hundred men above mentioned, and I am under no doubt but the naval stores raised and procured by them (and which would in a manner be so much clear gain to the Crown), if it is reckoned what those stores would save her Majesty, being employed in refitting her ships of war here, it would amount to twice the value of their pay and subsistence if not more.

Now as to the other half of the men which I have proposed to employ on her Majesty's account, I doubt not besides the great advantage of strengthening the regular troops here, thereby to demonstrate a very great service which may be done the Crown, as that every hundred men to be employed will, by raising of naval stores, save her Majesty as much money as will subsist and pay double that number, besides their proportion of the officers' pay, and at the same time be kept under a discipline fit to join her Majesty's regular forces when occasion requires, and that without any further charge than their common pay and subsistence. But the manner of listing and paying these men must be different from the other soldiers, for such as come from England must be listed and transported in the nature of soldiers and servants, and agreed withal to be discharged from the service in four years, and during that time be employed both in labour and the exercise of their arms, as those under whose directions they are shall think proper, and I am humbly of opinion it would be very convenient to make this further addition to the contract, that after their discharge by the expiration of the four years, they should not mix with the militia, but in every county where they afterwards go to settle remain in distinct bodies by themselves and be every six weeks or two months obliged to appear under arms, and be disciplined by officers belonging to the regular forces, and their being of the Queen's, arms and clothing carefully kept in readiness for them. By these means her Majesty would in time have a handsome force for the defence of these parts of her dominions, and without any charge, because I do firmly believe that I, having the opportunity put into my hands of trying the experiments, can demonstrate, that if her Majesty should allow eight hundred men for this province, four hundred thereof being employed on raising and procuring naval stores in such a manner as I can direct, that they shall save her Majesty a greater value in the Treasury by what they so raise than the Crown shall be at charge in maintaining the whole eight hundred, with their proper officers, and charge transporting the recruits as the men become free, and so far as any naval stores are wanting for the nation, by the same rules that four hundred are employed, four thousand may, which would not only be a wonderful security to these parts of her Majesty's empire, but a very great advantage as well as honour to the nation, because nothing but our manufactures will be wanted to answer that charge.

As for that branch of naval stores pitch and tar, which the nation hath been endeavouring at by sending over the Palatines, I am of opinion that three or four hundred men sent over in the manner I have proposed, would be sufficient to manage that work, for although I am not of opinion that the pines in these parts of the world will yield like those in the dominions of Sweden, yet there can be no other difference in the charge, than only to be at some more trouble and pains in preparing the trees, felling, splitting, and setting the "kills" for everything else as transportation, etc.; until they come into the Queen's stores will be the same, and if proper vessels were built and the victualling and manning of them were

ordered with that prudence and good husbandry which I humbly suppose I could direct, besides the honour it would be to the nation of being supplied with all their stores from their own dominions, I doubt but the pitch and tar as well as all other naval stores, may be delivered into the Queen's yards cheaper than they were or can be from any parts of the Baltic, and the soldiers' pay and subsistence reckoned for the payment of it. Perhaps it may be objected that the soldiers must have a further consideration than their pay and subsistence to enable them to work. As to that part, my Lord, I have well considered it, and if the opportunity is put into my hands of trying the experiment I doubt not, by God's assistance, making out that, and everything else I have proposed, in which if I fail and am not able to perform those great services I have proposed, I shall be very far from desiring any consideration for my trouble, or continuance of the design, and shall not only be content that it fall but sit under the disgrace of having put the Court to unnecessary trouble.

If what I have offered appears reasonable, and your Lordship is pleased to procure me an order to list the hands above desired, and proceed, as I intend by God's assistance, amongst other naval stores, to make a small essay on large masts, there being, as I have been informed by an intelligent person who hath viewed them, as good and large in Connecticut colony, and to be got with more ease and less charge than in any ports in North America, so must entreat the favour of your Lordship to procure me an order from the Queen to that Government, to permit me on her Majesty's account to purchase any tracts of land whereon are masts from the Indians.

When I was giving your Lordship my thoughts concerning the pitch and tar design, I omitted the laying before your Lordship my thoughts relating to the Palatines. I am humbly of opinion, as they cannot be continued with any advantage to the Crown, that the best means of discharging them would be by taking their bonds in a certain number of years to refund what the Queen hath disbursed, keeping a sufficient detachment of the men to carry on the work for a year until others can be got to manage it.

As there are many things contained in these papers, of which if I am known to be the author, may create me enemies, so I do most heartily entreat your Lordship that they may not be known to come from me, for although my zeal and affection for my country obligeth me to do everything I can for the service of it, yet I am willing to do it in such a manner as it may not hurt my private interest.

[Henry Watkins to J. Drummond?]

1711, [June 22-]July 2, N.S. Camp at Lens—I assure you it is for the Lord Treasurer's sake I would not now be out of the army which was almost poisoned with prejudice against him. I force myself into some companies where I am not much led by inclination, as well to do him justice, as to make it believed what I say on that subject is the language of our Courts, and there passes no day that I do not oblige my master Cardonnel and Dr. Hare to drink the Treasurer's health. I do not pretend to make any merit of this, I am sufficiently rewarded by the pleasure the honest discharge of this part of my duty affords my conscience.

It is certainly very much to be wished the dispute between the King of Prussia and Prince of Nassau was ended, but what have the troops to do with it? Why may not the Landgrave of Hesse say, if his

son-in-law be not gratified in all his pretensions, he will recall his troops? If he had not more honour and goodwill to the public than the King, this would be a very natural language for him to talk.

As for "Medleys, Observators," etc., what corner soever they come from, 'tis certain my Lord Duke has some near relations who are far from being his friends, and 'tis not just he should suffer for their faults, they have their ends if they can keep him from joining heartily with the present Ministry, though the consequence should be his utter ruin, but I hope they will not succeed. In my poor station I labour to prevent it, and shall continue so to do, for I believe my labour will not be in vain. The "Examiner" I see goes on, but seems to be drawing towards an end.

Germany seems now to be threatened with the storm of war, the enemy's second detachment marches on, and is, they say, to be followed by a third, which I think I may promise you will put us upon doing something that may gain to ourselves honour and afford our friends satisfaction. However we must look well after the enemy, who have got together a great train with a suitable quantity of ammunition and all other necessaries for a siege at Cambray.

Our Colonel General of Dragoons arrived here this day having left the General of the Foot at Lille.

An unlucky accident has befallen Lord Hartford, he is pretty lavish of his tongue, Major Petit of the Train, who thought himself reflected on, called him to account. His Lordship rather than fight condescended to eat his words in a full Coffee House, but the Major still talks of it in such a manner as will make the Lord notoriously scandalous, or venture the having his throat cut, which is a risk he seems unwilling to run.

Col. Horace Walpole to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, June 23—I was yesterday surprised with the unwelcome news that Mr. Eversfield was made Treasurer of the Ordnance (which I hope is not true), which employment I understood your Lordship promised me above three weeks since, and at the same time told me you had spoken to her Majesty, who had granted it, which made me not so pressing as otherwise I might have been, not doubting your goodness to me in consideration of my faithful services, at great expense, hazard of my life, and in opposition to my family, who were always kind to me. There was nothing I could have asked in reason that my Lord Townshend and my nephew would not have gained for me of Lord Godolphin and Lord Marlborough, all which I resisted rather than join with the enemies of Monarchy and the Establishment. Sir Charles Turner's place was offered me before he had it, and also Colonel Townshend's regiment some time before he died, both which I refused, resolving not to come into their measures. This is fact, and more I could have said when your Lordship allowed me the honour, nay commanded me to wait on you, had you not stopped me with the assurances of her Majesty's commands to you to make me easy.

I know not anything I have done since to cancel her Majesty's and your Lordship's intended favours, having constantly attended the House, and I may, without vanity, say I do not act alone there. And forgive me if I think my services in my country superior to most in the House, though I have not the faculty of speaking, but had I been so

fortunate to be blessed with that talent I would never have made use of it to reflect on her Majesty and her Administration by requiring the secrets of her Cabinet, and set up a club against her Prerogative, as the October was, where I never went until they were reconciled to the Ministry.

I am sure you would forgive me this trouble if you were convinced of the joy it would be to the Whigs, and the great disappointment it will be to the Tories (who will not act without me) should I return without some reasonable mark of honour to countenance my interest and enable me to support it.

This proceeds not from any doubt I have of your protection and care of me, but the fear I have of being disappointed of the employment I have so much of late set my heart upon. I hope therefore your great goodness will forgive me renewing my earnest request to be Treasurer of the Ordnance, which I shall ever endeavour to merit from you, and crave your pardon for this presumption.

THE PRINCESS DES URSINS to the LORD TREASURER of Great Britain.

1712 [June 24-]July 4, N.S. Madrid—The gracious manner with which you promise the Marquis de Torcy the good offices which he has asked from you in my favour does not allow me to defer for one moment the rendering of a thousand humble thanks, etc.

I long to see you at the height of your desire, and of the glory due to you, and our two great queens united by friendship and confidence, their estimable qualities making them so like to each other and so superior to all the other princesses in the universe. *French. Seal.*

DR. FRANCIS ATTERBURY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, June 25. Chelsea—I have things in a very fair way in my neighbourhood. The Bishop [Trelawney], after the Speaker had set him right, continued very easy and discoursed Dr. Friend and me upon it, and let him know he had secured the next vacancy at Westminster for him. To me he has spoken with pleasure of your Lordship's kind manner of treating him; told me a good deal of the discourse, but took no manner of notice of what related to his son, which yet I doubt not sat nearest his heart; and I take his silence to be a proof of it. His son, my Lord, when he returns is to have the estate in Cornwall made over to him, and consequently the same interest in some of the boroughs there as his father now has—and for this reason I suppose my Lord mentioned this in the letter which I sent enclosed to you. I had much ado to persuade the Speaker to come yesterday, because of the Council, but am glad I did because it has had very good effect, and produced another invitation of him, on Monday next, the day which the Bishop annually celebrates, in memory of his delivery out of the Tower. The Speaker will also entertain the Bishop; by this means you may insure what you think proper.

H. ST. JOHN to [THOMAS] HARLEY.

1712, June 25. Whitehall—An official letter signed by St. John about Harley's mission to Hanover.

"Though the people in Holland have been wrought up to a mighty ferment against the Queen's measures, and to an extravagant jealousy

of this nation, yet I do verily believe that those who are in the Regency would pass their times but ill, were all the offers and invitations made them by the Queen during several months, and what was transacted with M. Buys at London, publicly known.

I never was much alarmed at the reports concerning a great fleet to be fitted out by the States, though the advices were very particular, and often repeated."

H. St. John to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1712, June 28?] Sunday—I have been thinking of what your Lordship was pleased to say to me yesterday, and can only repeat my thanks to the Queen in the first place, and to your Lordship in the second. Give me leave on this occasion to offer one thing to your thoughts, which occurs to mine. If it is reasonable in itself, and not inconvenient, your Lordship's goodness to me will prompt you to gratify me; if it is more than what I ought to expect, of if the consequence of it can be disobliging to anyone who is of moment in the service, burn my letter, forget that I asked it, and I promise you I will forget that I was refused it. I have seen so much of the ill grace of those who are craving and insatiable, that I am resolved never to leave room for fixing that reproach upon me.

In short, my Lord, when the Queen spoke some time since of my promotion to the House of Lords, she was pleased to let fall some words, as if she did not intend to let me come in the rear of the peers made this winter. Upon that supposition I presume to ask your Lordship whether I may not hope that her Majesty will be so good as to revive in me the title of Earl of Bolingbrook (*sic*)? It was in the elder House of my family, and is very lately extinct.

I have no list by me, and on my memory cannot recollect who the viscounts are, but your Lordship best knows whether it may give any disgust to that rank of the peerage.

I would only add that my brother Secretary [Dartmouth] passed over their heads, and, set his services apart, I am sure his birth nor fortune do not give him much better pretensions than mine are.

My Lord, I recall the word pretensions, and confess I have none. The post I fill is more than I deserve, and I must depend on the Queen's goodness for this favour. If rewards were strictly proportioned to merit, I should be, as well as some others of her servants, in stations far below those which we now are in.

Forgive so long a "scrall" upon my own subject, and depend on me as a man entirely devoted to your interest, and prepared in all events to run your fortune. Use me therefore as may best suit with your conveniency.

Earl Poulett to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1712, June]—My humble thanks attend your Lordship for the very great honour of your letter, and you have so perfectly obliged me on all occasions as your friend, and an honest man, with respect to the public, that I can't but feel a great deal of satisfaction to have been so distinguished by yours and the nation's enemy*, and if it

* Referring to Marlborough's challenge of him on account of words used in the debate of May 23.

had been free of disappointment, whatever my fate had been I should have esteemed it one of the greatest happinesses of my life, which is entirely devoted to the honour of your friendship; and best enjoyed to my mind when opportunity affords any occasion to appear in some sort deserving. You have encouraged in me this ambition by so many obligations that I have no other place to ask of Lord Treasurer, but that of being admitted your servant as second, if ever Lord Oxford should have occasion for one.

I hope your Lordship will represent this matter to the Queen as a hearty zeal, if there has been any rashness with it of my part, so that it may not appear she has the worse opinion of me for what has happened. I think the best way is entirely to slight this accident in conversation, and earnestly beg you would do so. I will only add that my heart is wholly yours, and I never can have any friends or enemies but what are so to Lord Oxford.

H. St. John to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1712, June?] I was very sorry your Lordship's health did not allow you to stay the Cabinet, but I hope the turn of the weather will perfectly restore you.

I enclose the draught of a letter to the States, together with theirs to the Queen. You will please correct what may be amiss, it is a little more flourished than usual, but I hope on this occasion that may be allowable. I laid it last night before the Queen in Council.

I have likewise prepared minutes of instructions to the Plenipotentiaries, which are observations upon the remarks of the States, and am to order them to declare that the Queen expects they sign this treaty without delay as a test of their sincerity.

Your Lordship knows that these remarks are printed in the "Flying Post."

Certain it is that they will treat with the faction here, and even their present conduct is concerted with the Whigs.

To-morrow morning I get all the Dutch business off my hands. Catalonia is a sore place. Monteleon's courier should be dispatched.

J. D[rummond to the Earl of Oxford].

1712, July [1-]12, N.S. Amsterdam—Before Mr. Harvey went to Hanover I had the honour of his company sometime here, and amongst other discourse he was pleased to enquire into the reasons of the lowness of the English Exchange, and height of the discount upon English bills drawn even by the Bank of England on their correspondents here; and Mr. Walcot, who is come over here to succeed Mr. Sweet, and who I hope will do more justice to the Queen and her Ministry than his predecessor, complaining to Mr. Harley that the bankers here upon whom the Bank draws their bills will not discount as Mr. Pels and others have done formerly, I was desired to think upon some secure method by which your Lordship needed be under no constraint to employ or bargain always with one and the same people, in case they should think themselves indispensably necessary, and impose any hard terms.

Young Mr. Pels being now at London will have the honour to present a letter to you from his father, who is esteemed here worth above two hundred thousand pounds, though he has given large portions with

his two daughters lately—the one to Burgomaster Borcey; the other to Burgomaster Munter's son. I have entreated that my name may not be mentioned, for I do not want more enemies in my present unlucky circumstances; but I took the freedom to assure Mr. Pels that your Lordship would be pleased to receive his son with that civility with which you did every one who had proposals to make for the Queen's service and the public good. If the East India Company's prolongation were not passed I could have wished that the South Sea Company had obtained a liberty from them for the benefit of their fishing of whales in a very temperate climate, which, if your Lordship thinks proper, by ordering Mr. Moor or Mr. Gibbon, or any one you can trust to. and has had an education that way, to send for one Mr. Edward Fenwick, who may be heard of either at Governor Pitt's, but more certain at Mr. Edward Harles', swordbearer of London, who cruised up and down many years on the African coast, and he is soliciting the East India Company now to go to China. The account of a bay in which he traded with the Indians, and where there is or may be a very easy and great whale fishing is very well worth remarking, and every one who knows him gives him the character of a man of truth. I had an opportunity of knowing him here, when he came first home, and have often since wished that I had taken the freedom to mention him to your Lordship, which I hope you will not now take amiss.

About ten days ago Mr. Buys came down here from Utrecht and sent for me, and I had then very good reason to hope that the States would come into the cessation of arms, and he ordered me to send an express that night to Mr. Harley to meet him at his lodgings, ere the post went for England. All this, with some discourse I had with a very worthy Burgomaster, who I doubt not has been mentioned to your Lordship, made me hope that this town would struggle heartily for the cessation; but all their discourse ended with some demands of security, and whether that Strasburg could not be had for the Emperor, and their barrier of 1709, and their tariff entire, without exception; that, if they could be sure of those, this town would take the affair on them, but I am sorry to find that they have let Lord Strafford go to the army without coming to better resolutions, and into the Queen's sentiments. My friend tells me the last vote went by a majority, but that the raising of money must go unanimous, and that then this town would have an opportunity of showing their strength and inclinations; but Lille is what they would not think of parting with. To all this I could give him no other answer than that if they had come in time into the Queen's measures they needed not have wanted any thing which could have been for their safety or advantage.

I have still good hopes that this town will do a bold thing to deliver themselves out of this destructive war, though one is hardly safe here from the people at present who is not of their opinion, or wise enough either to keep his tongue in public company, or to stay altogether out of it.

One concern drives out another with me; my fear of Mr. Gibbon's ruining my affair with his extent, and not coming into the same terms and concurring with the rest of our creditors, that our effects may be divided equally amongst them, weighs heaviest with me, for then I could be soon made easy if he came in. If he carry through his extent, I know not when, nor how to see an end of my misery; I dare not importune you further on this subject than I presumed once to say before, that I will certainly make him easy and that he may depend I will

not let him lose in all above the two thousand pounds, which he offers to lose if the rest be saved to him, but this I must keep very secret from others, and I humbly beg your Lordship's assistance and pardon for all this freedom.

EARL RIVERS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1712,] July 1. Tuesday—My doctor has ordered me to the Bath; I fully resolve to begin my journey on Saturday. If you will help me in this my last exigency, pray send it by Doctor 'Albertenet' (Arbuthnot) to me. If not, let me know by him, for I must endeavour to borrow it upon any terms before Saturday. I despair seeing you makes me send this; God only knows if ever I shall. I don't despair, but am not so hardy as my doctors. I can safely say I am ever at your command.

[*Attached is an undated letter of Lord Rivers referring to his illness and straitened circumstances.*]

SIR HENRY BELASYSE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, July [2-]13, N.S. Barcelona—Our representation, which will be long, being not yet finished, I humbly beg leave just to touch on some few observations to your Lordship.

The provisions and forage for the several embarkations from Italy come to above 20,000*l.* In the conventions for the transportation of those troops, it is stipulated that reasonable deductions should be made for their provisions and forage out of their pay. No deductions have been made, nor so much as thought of, the remainder of the provisions has been managed much at the same rate, as also the utensils, which cost above 6,000*l.* Some of the said provisions, said to be put on board some of her Majesty's men-of-war for the subsistence of some of the above mentioned troops in their transportation, I believe never were put on board, and other methods used for the subsisting them, but you shall have a particular account of this hereafter. Light pistoles that were remitted by Mr. Chetwynd from Genoa, though an aggio was charged on them, yet the King's proclamation was got here for the passing them under weight, Mr. Mead told me some of them were not worth above 14s., others 15s. We have brought Mr. Mead to own under his own hand that he has made a profit of 2,174*l.* (after his own way of reckoning) of moiders and crusados, which he has never given the Queen credit for, and if he cannot give you better reasons than he has given us, I believe you will think them very weak ones. Many warrants for the extraordinaries of the war are the most extraordinary that I ever heard of.

I believe we shall be able to inform your Lordship of great abuses in the hospitals here, and greater in that for the seamen at Port Mahon, which we have had intimations of, as well as of extraordinary management of the public money for the fortification of that place.

The Secretary of State here complains that he can get no account of moneys charged to his Master's account for fortifications in this country paid to Peter Jones and Durant, our engineers, and this complaint is just.

Marshal Staremberg is going to take the field without our help for mule money.

H. St. John to the Lord Treasurer.

1712, July 3. I would forfeit anything in my power to recall the letter I wrote to your Lordship upon which you spoke to the Queen, but it is impossible.

Let me therefore be punished for my indiscretion, and since I asked too much let the Queen be so good as to give me nothing.

It might disoblige some to do what I desired; it will certainly disoblige several to do what the Queen intends. To do nothing for me will to be sure disoblige nobody, since I can be answerable it shall not me.

I am perfectly satisfied to continue in the House of Commons, and if I did some little service in the last session I will endeavour to do more in the next. I have writ to Lord Keeper, but have yet no answer.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—Mr. Secretary St. John—Title.

Lord Lansdowne to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, July 4. I trouble your Lordship with two requests—one on behalf of Mrs. Hamley, whose petition is enclosed; her husband was supervisor of the supervisors of the blowing houses in Cornwall—the other that you would please to remove Bernard Penrose, the present collector of Helston, a busy virulent turbulent fellow, and bestow his place upon Mr. Polkenhorn, a man every way qualified for it; a particular friend of Sir Richard Vyvyan's as well as mine, and of great use to us both in that county.

The Duke of Ormond to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, July [5-] 16, N.S. The Camp at Chateau Cambresis—My Lord Strafford arrived here the 12 inst., and will inform you of what passed between him and the general officers of the foreign troops in her Majesty's pay and in the joint pay. I am sorry he could not persuade them to break their resolution of separating from us and joining with the Imperialists and Dutch, which they have done this day, upon the Prince Eugene's marching to invest Landrecies. There are only Walleff's dragoons and the Holstein dragoons, with one battalion of that country, that will stay with us.

This morning I received a letter from Sir James Abercromby and Colonel King informing me that they had adjusted everything with the Comte de Lomon for the reception of the Queen's troops, and would evacuate the town on their arrival.

To-morrow I shall declare a cessation of arms for the Queen's Army, and I design to march towards the Scheldt, and to pass that river and continue marching until I come to the Liss near Warneton, where I shall stay to receive her Majesty's orders. I wonder it could be believed that I should have disobeyed the Queen's orders in so essential a point, as to have showed Prince Eugene and the deputies my orders for not to enter into any action. The letters that I wrote to Mr. St. John of the 28th and 29th of May and 4th of June make the contrary appear very plainly, those letters containing all that I said on that subject, but the spreading of false reports is no new thing, either on this or your side the water. I have been under pretty many difficulties and have done the best I could for her Majesty's service, which I shall endeavour to promote to the best of my power.

This is the fifth letter I have wrote to your Lordship without having the honour to hear from you since my being on this side the water.

COLONEL J[OHN] HILL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, July 8. Dunkirk—The bearer of this will give your Lordship a more particular account than I have time to do at present of everything that has passed here. I shall take what care possibly I can to keep everything in as good order as possible. I have put Col. Kane into the citadel, and have made Sir James Abercrombie the town major.

The EARL OF FINDLATER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, July 8. Cullen House—I have received letters from the Duke of Hamilton and the Earls of Mar and Ilay acquainting me that the Queen has been pleased to name me to be elected in the place of the Earl Marischal. They do promise also to use their interests for me.

CALEB HEATHCOTE to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1712, July 8. New York—One of the greatest mischiefs which attends America, and is indeed very ruinous both to Church and State, is the many little Charter Governments, but I hope a peace being concluded the Parliament will take that matter into their consideration, for they are so vain and great in their little commonwealths, as to make laws without having any regard as to their being repugnant to the laws of England. In our neighbouring Government of Connecticut they had a law, wherein they denied liberty of conscience to the Church, laying in general a 5*l.* fine on such who went to any congregation but their own. About six years ago I went to a place called Stratford in that colony, with one Mr. Munson, who was minister of Rye [or Pye] parish in this government. Our errand was to endeavour the settlement of the church there. After our return all those who came to Mr. Munson were threatened to have the fine levied upon them, but upon our complaining of it to the Society and Bishops, they thought advisable at their next General Court to repeal that law.

And now I am making mention of the Church, I beg I may not be thought troublesome if I dwell a little on that subject, and acquaint your Lordship with the state of America in that respect, and to give your Lordship the history thereof in general. It is my opinion that through all North America for every member of the Church there are thirty or forty Dissenters. This is a melancholy account, but is what I believe to be truth. In the colony of Connecticut, which has been settled between ninety and a hundred years, wherein are about forty towns, and near fifty thousand souls, the Church hath no manner of footing, and from its first settlement until I went there with Mr. Munson the prayers of the Church had never been read, nor the service performed in any kind, by any minister of the Church in all that colony. I was the first layman that ever received the Communion, and was present at baptizing of the first child that was ever baptized there according to the liturgy of our Church. I spent a great many journeys there with Mr. Munson, being about a hundred miles from this place, where he made a wonderful progress, and I had the good fortune then to prevail with the Society to make that his

mission, with an allowance of 100*l.* sterling a year. Had he lived he would, by the blessing of God, have done wonderful service for the Church; but to our great misfortune, he dying before his removal, I could never by all the interest I could make bring the Society into that good temper again. I have by this opportunity pressed my Lord of London to do what he can for those poor people of Stratford, and if it is his good fortune to succeed, have begged of him that an uncommon care may be taken in the choice of a fitting person, in which a mistake would be very fatal to that design. I cannot help being of opinion that it very much concerns the nation of Great Britain to take some speedy care of us, and as these countries increase in people the best of religions, the Church of England, may take root and grow with it, lest in time the seed of rebellion should spring up. I have had it from very credible persons that both in New England and Connecticut, they have heard some of the people talk as if they were now in a condition to set up for themselves, and were not now to be governed by England, or words to that effect; and it may very easily be imagined that if some speedy care is not taken to reduce the Charter Governments and instruct the people in better principles they may in time be able to put in practice what they now can only talk of.

LORD JOHNSTONE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, July [9-]20, N.S. Hanover—Mr. Harley arrived here happily on the 13th after a journey of five days through a very barren country, and in most places met with but very indifferent accommodation, except at Osnabruck, where he was received and entertained by the Elector of Treves with all imaginable civilities. He is at present Bishop of that place, chosen by the Roman Catholic Canons, who are eighteen to two Protestant; had the majority fallen on the side of the latter, it would have been much such a division as we have had the happiness to hear of lately in the two Houses of Parliament.

I beg leave to congratulate your Lordship upon it, and humbly to offer my sincere and hearty wishes that it may ever continue thus, for the advancement of your designs, which I hope all the world in a little time will be satisfied are free from interested views, and tend alone to the glory and honour of the Queen, and the good prosperity of your country.

I had the honour to wait on Mr. Harley to his audience of the Elector and Electress on Friday last at Heerenhuysen, a little country house where they reside all the summer, about a mile from this place. In the afternoon he waited on the Electoral Prince and Princess, who keep their court in town at the Castle, with a young Prince and two Princesses their children. The gaiety and diversion of the Court consist entirely in a regular promenade that is made every evening in the orangery and garden of Heerenhuysen and lasts for two or three hours, in which the old Electress, who is near eighty-four, performs to a miracle, fatiguing all the company with walking after her without in the least incommoding herself.

You have been pleased to show me so much goodness and favour in allowing me to come in some measure under your protection that I hope you will forgive my requesting the honour of your commands, which are to regulate me upon Mr. Harley's returning to England, that I may know her Majesty's pleasure, if I am capable of being in anything useful to her and your Lordship.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to [THOMAS] HARLEY.

1712, July 11. Whitehall—Yesterday Capt. Hart arrived from the Duke of Ormond, with letter containing an account of the extraordinary behaviour of the foreign troops in her Majesty's pay, and in the joint pay of her Majesty and of the States General.

After many preparatory intrigues, Prince Eugene sent for the Generals of these corps, and asked them what party they would take in case he should march, and the Duke of Ormond not. With little or no hesitation they all agreed to abandon the Queen's army and to join the other. Prince Eugene then sent, on the 14th inst., N.S., to acquaint the Duke that he intended to march on the 16th. The Duke of Ormond returned for answer to this dry, indecent and unjustifiable message that he was surprised at it, there not having been the least previous concert between them; he could not resolve to march with him, much less was Eugene to expect any assistance from the Queen's troops in an enterprise thus undertaken.

In effect Prince Eugene marched, and of all the foreign corps which have been paid so long by the Queen, and whose masters have had so many obligations to her, none remained with the British forces, except Walleff's Dragoons and part of the troops of Holstein Gottorp.

After this, and not till after this, the Duke of Ormond declared a suspension of arms between the Queen and France, and you will have heard that Mr. Hill took on Tuesday possession of Dunkirk.

For the foreigners to desert her Majesty whilst her bread was in their mouths and her money in their pockets, to leave her subjects exposed for ought they knew to the attempt of the enemy, this the Queen looks upon to be such an indignity, such a violation of all faith, that she is resolved to resent it in the manner becoming so great a Princess.

You are therefore upon this subject to keep till further orders a good deal of reserve, and to show a concern for those who have thus dealt with her Majesty rather than to let them in the least imagine that their conduct has distressed her.

You may upon occasion take notice that the Queen did not expect this treatment from her allies, that she supposes they have made their accord with those to whom they have adhered, since after such a proceeding they can expect nothing from her.

Signed.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to [THOMAS] HARLEY, at Hanover.

1712, July 12. Whitehall—This letter accompanies a very formal one from the office, and serves to tell you that we are not at all concerned as to the Queen's interest, abstractedly at what has happened in Flanders, but we are very much at a loss to imagine what the Princes can mean, or propose to themselves, to whom these troops belong. A beggarly German general commands the troops which have been so many years paid by her Majesty, and which are so actually at this time, to desert from the Queen, and to leave her subject forces for ought they knew exposed to be attacked by the enemy. This is I confess surprising, and what very few instances can be produced to parallel.

I assure you that the matter will be carried high here. I think the Queen and all who serve her are determined to resent this insult offered to the British nation by our *mercenaries*. We shall have money to spare, and I believe we shall employ it to make those fear

our force, who have not been gained upon by our kindness. The Northern ministers begin already to be alarmed at the equipment of a very strong squadron for the Baltic. They will soon discover that the States, who were to invade us, cannot fit out one fleet to cope with our Channel guard.

I long to hear from you; has the Elector no one man who knows anything of this country, or who is endowed with more sagacity than Schutz and Bothmer? the poorest tools, next to Blathwayt, that ever dirtied paper. Adieu, let us see Couchman's [the messenger's] face as soon as you see and know the *Carte du pays*.

The Duke of Leeds to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, July 12. I have received so unexpected an answer from your Lordship by what I have heard from Mr. Lowndes in answer to the letter which I made be written to him this day, concerning the warrant for my pension, that I perceive I am not only to expect no favour from you, but that as much as in you lies the Queen's promise to me is to be obstructed, which has been twice repeated to me by her Majesty that it should be a full confirmation of my former grant, which is now expired; and I find your reason for it to be, that mine may not be a precedent to the Scotch grants.

I thank God that my former grant (as the preamble thereof will show) was upon a consideration that no man but myself can pretend to, viz., for having been the chief instrument of the marriage betwixt King William and his Queen, and for the particular services done by me at the time of the Revolution; and if her Majesty shall perform her promise of a new grant, I shall beg leave to have the same considerations inserted into it, which will be distinction enough to avoid its being called a precedent to any other whatsoever. Besides this plea it was my own fault that my present grant is not still in being, for it was both intended and offered to have been for my life, but one and twenty years being in law counted three lives, and I being then sixty years old wanting one, it was allowed me as an additional favour to give it for one and twenty years; and her Majesty did now think these reasons to be such strong ones for a life to be continued to one who is now past eighty years, and my reasons are also so well known to her Majesty to be true, that she told me I might depend upon my having the warrant before the middle of this month, at which time I asked her leave to go into the country. But if these reasons will not satisfy your Lordship I must stay to make my further application to her Majesty, and if it shall be refused me (which I cannot possibly believe) I assure you I will not trouble you for any warrant at Michaelmas to be upon the same precarious foot the Scotchmen are to be put upon. I desire I may receive your Lordship's answer before Monday night whatever it shall be.

Postscript.—My servant shall call both to-morrow and Monday at your porter's to know your pleasure.

W. Bromley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, July 12. Baginton—I take the first opportunity from hence to pay my duty to your Lordship, to return you my humble thanks for the favour I received from you in town, and to assure your Lordship that, *vel in otio, vel in negotio*, I am entirely devoted to your

services and interests. I never observed at any time so much inquisitiveness upon the road as on this journey, an impatience to hear the peace proceeded well, and that Dunkirk was in the possession of the Queen; even in Buckinghamshire great satisfaction was expressed on these expectations, and I was told the middle and trading sort of people were asking one another whether they might not now drink the French King's health.

JOHN [ROBINSON] BISHOP OF BRISTOL, Lord Privy Seal, to [THOMAS] HARLEY, at Hanover.

1712, July [13-]24, N.S. Utrecht—You will not perhaps be unwilling to have communication of what comes from my Lord Strafford, and therefore Haywood, the messenger, pressing to be dispatched, I send you in original what I have received, upon supposition that you will please to return them by a safe hand.

I verily hope matters will speedily be settled with the King of Prussia to our content. Savoy I take to be very near, and I think the Danes will also come in. In the meantime you see our affairs in such a situation that you will observe what the Queen does towards bringing them in is rather to serve them than herself.

The messenger will tell you what is said of the Earl of Sunderland. I hope it is not true.

I congratulate you upon the surrender of Dunkirk, and our march to Ghent.

I perceive you conceal your kindness, as much as others proclaim theirs, and leave it to be discovered by the effects. Such a discovery I have made, for my Lord Treasurer has ordered me a quarter's salary within two days after it was due, for which I return his Lordship and you thanks.

WALTER DOUGLAS, Governor of the Leeward Islands, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, July 16. Antigua—By several conveyances I have assumed the liberty to lay the plain state of these islands before your Lordship, particularly the reasons which obliged me to issue out her Majesty's proclamation of pardon the sixth of February last according to her instructions, with such limitations and exceptions as I judged most advisable from the certain knowledge I had attained of the rebellious and stubborn disposition of the people. The four persons, Painter, King, Ker, and Hamilton that I had seized before the proclamation were not more guilty than the others who appeared in arms at the insurrection, and if her most gracious Majesty were so pleased as to vouchsafe to extend her mercy to these four unfortunate persons it would contribute very much to allay the heats and divisions of this island. The chief advisers and promoters of the rebellion are Mr. Kirby, now in custody in Luiz; Mr. Don, Mr. Mackinen, and Mr. Watkins, whom I sent for England the 6th inst., it being impossible for me to have attempted seizing them sooner, and being obliged to order the fourteen or fifteen merchant ships with whom they went, to sail in a hurry, to save them from a great fleet of French ships that appeared off this island, which they escaped about the space of two hours, by which two of the witnesses against the prisoners

were left behind, and shall follow by the first opportunity. Both parties agree that these two wicked persons were the chief contrivers and authors of all their misfortunes, and it is looked upon as the voice of God that summons them to justice, which I'm fully persuaded will in a very great measure restore the peace and tranquillity of this island. They continued to raise sedition and stir up parties upon account of Mr. Hamilton, the late Lieutenant-General of these islands, who constantly corresponded with them in all their conspiracies against their late General, and have attempted several rebellious practices since the proclamation.

I have tried all the methods of mildness to reclaim these perverse people, which I humbly beg leave to assure your Lordship will never succeed with them for their happiness unless some rigour of justice be put in execution against them. And as the governors of colonies must answer the least abuse of authority, so I would gladly adventure to offer to your Lordship that if they are very much curbed and restrained in the functions of their posts, her Majesty's service can never be performed with that reputation and vigour as is required, especially in the sad circumstances of these islands. There are but two or three more that are very dangerous and troublesome incendiaries, and if I had the honour to receive directions to send them for England with witnesses to prove the charge against them, the people would quickly become obedient, dutiful, and prosperous.

By my last advice from Montserrat, the French fleet, consisting of six men of war, whereof three are reckoned of sixty guns, with about twenty sail of small vessels, landed two thousand men on that island on Monday night and Tuesday morning the 8th and 9th inst.—(Mr. Pearn, the lieutenant-governor, by the ill advice of some turbulent people in this island deserted the place the 20th of April last)—and have since taken almost all the passes and posts in it. A great many of their negroes have run to the enemy, several of whom are killed by the inhabitants who have lost very few men as yet, and heartily beg relief of this barbarous island. On their first appearance I sent to Barbados for her Majesty's ships to come to our assistance, our strength at sea being so much inferior to that of the enemy. We have three ships of some countenance and one of sixteen guns, which are got ready to sail to-morrow, when I am to embark with about one hundred and fifty soldiers, half armed, and not many fit to march (though her Majesty is at so great an expense in keeping up the name of a regiment in these islands, but of no defence), very few of the Militia being willing to leave the island, and am of opinion that compulsion at this juncture would not prove for the benefit of her Majesty's service. I shall do my best to land and afford these poor distressed people all possible relief; for wherever I meet my fate my last breath shall express my entire devotion and sincerest acknowledgments for your most unexampled and generous protection, and since amongst such mutinous and dissatisfied people malicious complaints and calumnies will arise, I shall only most humbly entreat your Lordship's great goodness to be allowed an opportunity to answer, or shall most willingly submit to the severest punishment.

JAMES YARBURGH to [the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, July 16. Heslington near York—Having formerly been known to you at Mons. Foubert's Academy, I presume to inform you

how I have been used by Lord Downe, whose interest I am told your Lordship does at present espouse. The matter is about some fairs which the town of Snaith was desirous to have, and I being Lord of the Manor there under the Queen the inhabitants applied to me, stating that Lord Downe seemed willing to promote their design. He had, however, attempted to get the grant made to himself and his heirs instead of to me, as the people of Snaith and I expected; but upon a full hearing by a jury of two and twenty freeholders judgment had gone against him.

I am told Lord Downe has your interest towards obtaining a new writ, but I hope now that you are thoroughly apprized of the matter you will not any further appear in it; for he has neither right nor title to the Manor, and there is no such thing that I can hear of as having fairs in another man's manor.

[Alexander Cunningham to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, July 20. Craig Court—If Lord Lonsdale has had the happiness to see your Lordship at your house this morning it will have eased him from the mortification he has had these two days by passed in not being at liberty to see you on Friday, which he intended.

Mr. James Lowther accompanied his Lordship to your house, in the meantime your humble servant stayed at home to entertain other gentlemen that came to see my Lord, and who might have obstructed so good a work.

Having now seen enough of London, we go into the North on Wednesday morning; hope to make some discoveries in Hadrian's and Severus's walls, or some new improvement in architecture, of which I understand something; but I vow, my Lord, not a word of Mohock, Whig, Tory, etc. So I intend to leave the town as I found it, not having spoken to anybody but to Mr. Benson. Recommend me to the Commissioners of the Custom House. If you would speak to me, do it before Wednesday, even in the country I shall be proud of your commands.

My most humble service to your friend at Hanover, keep him in Holland as long as you can; the others you have there will do you no good, and leave you when you want them most.

Men of Whitehaven to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, July 21. Whitehaven—The enclosed address [missing] being most readily and cheerfully subscribed, but for want of a proper person here, fit to undertake the delivery of it, we find ourselves under an absolute necessity of taking this method of conveying it by post to your Lordship"s hands, humbly begging pardon for so great presumption, assuring you that the same is genuine, and signed by the most substantial inhabitants and householders, who are constant conformists and true lovers of the Established Church, and therefore hope it will be no less acceptable if your Lordship will be pleased to do the subscribers the honour of presenting it to her Majesty.

It is with great humility and submission (in the names of ourselves and the rest of the subscribers) that we presume to beg this

extraordinary favour, praying also that public notice may be taken thereof by inserting of it in the Gazette among other loyal addresses.

Signed by—

JAMES MILHAM.
JOHN GALE.
MATT. GALE.
FRAN. YATES.
ROBT. BLACKLOCK.
EBEN. GALE.
J. GALE, junr.

Men of Whitehaven.

DR. FRANCIS ATTERBURY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, July 24. Christ Church—My Lord Marlborough has this Act withdrawn his usual present of venison to the Heads of Houses, having sent it to three of them only who are of his acquaintance, the Wardens of Merton and Wadham, and Dr. Lancaster. He has sent a buck also to Dr. Potter, at this College; perhaps that the passing me over might be the more observable.

I find the College, at the head of which by your favour I am placed, not altogether what I wish it in point of learning and industry, but I am taking the best methods I can to make it such, and hope in some little time to give you a good account of my endeavours. Nothing on my side shall be wanting towards raising a spirit of diligence and emulation here, and I doubt not but that I shall have your countenance and all proper encouragements towards effecting so good a work. I have nothing at heart but your service, and the public good; and hope, by promoting the one, I may not be altogether useless in respect of the other.

[THOMAS HARLEY to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, [July 25-]August 4, N.S. Hanover—Before I left Utrecht I took care to have lodgings here and all other accommodations for the company that went with me, also servants of this country, one coach with six horses, and two other coaches, which removed all difficulties mentioned in Mr. D'Alais' letter. The case was uncommon for here were twelve or fourteen English at one time; however his Electoral Highness has ordered a coach and three of his own servants to attend constantly, as has been practised to persons of a public character who reside here only a short time. The Electoral family have been all very courteous and have restrained the court from talking with that freedom I was told they used before. Mr. Bernstorf first minister and Count Platen, Great Chamberlain, came to see me, and I was not wanting in returning their civility. The other officers about the Court set up a pretence that they could not see me till I made a formal notification to them; I answered the person who told me this, that I should not be backward on any occasion that offered to show civilities to persons employed by his Electoral Highness, but that I am not forward to see those who do not desire to see me.

An answer was prepared to the declaration made by Mr. Secretary St. John about the troops in the Queen's pay that should separate from the Duke of Ormond, which contained some hard expressions. I mentioned it to the Elector, who said it should be altered, but I could not prevail to have the troops left with the forces of her Majesty. He says that since the Queen has no further occasion for his troops, his engagements with the Empire oblige him to act in conjunction

with the Emperor and forces of the Empire against France till they agree on truce or peace, and hopes in this case her Majesty will not take it ill, but that she will please to consider the difficulties a Prince of the Empire is under.

Count Vedel has been here from the King of Denmark to desire a passage through the Elector's country into the country of Bremen, which has been refused; it being reported that the plague is in the Danish army, this has been used as the principal reason of the denial. I find the Dutch have several notions about preventing the troubles in the North. They would engage the Queen to appear in it, so that whether Sweden or Denmark be disobliged, England is to be the author of it, which deserves to be considered, nor can I see why England should be fond of forcing peace among Princes in one part of Europe who would oblige England against her will to continue war in another part.

It is very probable that before the affairs of the North are composed the most averse to the Queen's measures will find a want of her assistance, and till that time I leave it.

Lord Bolingbroke.*

Same date. Hanover—I wish you joy of change of House, we shall want you. Elector seems inclinable to enter into the Queen's measures in every but the one thing now necessary, this part of the world may have enough of war before troubles of North appeased, you know how to use (*sic*). All Germany has terror of King of Sweden; whilst confined, the Danes take this opportunity of entering Bremen, their army not paid, unprovided of necessaries, and said infected with the plague, this reason Elector refuses passage through his country, and has sent two or three thousand soldiers to keep out the plague. King of Prussia and Duke of Wolfenbuttel have put two companies into Stade as Directors of Lower Saxe.

Your brother gone to Berlin with Lord Johnstone where they will stay till I am ready to leave this place, which I hope will be soon.

A resident of Denmark is with me now, he has no reason for what Danish troops have done in Flanders, Denmark nor any of wise auxiliaries (except the Elector of Hanover) can pay their troops. Emperor has ruined Naples and Milan, no money thence; he is now mortgaging quicksilver mines in Holland. If I should write by post you will consider what hands it is to pass.

John Drummond to the Earl of Oxford.

1712, [July 29-]August 8. Utrecht—Being come here to wait on the Queen's ministers, and to communicate to them the opinions of the town in which I live since the affair of Denain, and having a safe opportunity of writing by the Queen's messenger, I have taken the freedom to congratulate my Lord Bolingbroke on the new dignity which the Queen has been pleased to honour him with, and I have wrote as full an account to his Lordship as I can of what passeth here. I cannot omit this opportunity of offering my most humble respects to your Lordship, and to add a few words on the same subject. My good friend Lord Albemarle is sufficiently mortified by his late misfortune at Denain, and is like to suffer more by Mons. de Villars' vanity of

* This is written on the third page of the same letter.

having him carried in procession with above four hundred officers, prisoners of war through France, to Orleans. His Lordship makes earnest entreaties by the Queen's intercession with the French Court, to have leave to return to the Hague, where he promises to be an earnest solicitor for the peace, as he thinks he may be a very powerful one; and I am confident if he be admitted to the Hague, he will be as good as his promise, for as never any was a more bigoted admirer of Prince Eugene, no one has now more resentment at his heart against him, that he would rather sacrifice him and all the body of troops and generals who were at Denain than raise his intended siege of Landrecies, which he has been forced however to abandon by the ill consequences of Denain and Marchiennes being lost, and must now come to prevent the French besieging Douay, which the want of forage about Douay will make impracticable to the French as well as their endeavours to prevent a battle will hinder them from hazarding that siege; but they have sufficiently gained their end by obliging Prince Eugene to be on the defensive the remainder of this campaign.

This turn of affairs has given new credit to Burgomaster de Haas' management at Amsterdam, and he has now new life to push on the good work of a peace which he is as hearty for as one could wish, but I cannot yet get him reconciled to part with Lille or any part of the tariff of 1664. He says that is all the obstacle which this State can now have against coming into the Queen's measures, and he is sensible that if they had come in sooner as he often advised and pressed them, that the Queen would easily have obtained that for them, and he still hopes that the States may deserve so well of the Queen that her Majesty will secure that town to them, and he is for having this State write a very obliging letter to the Queen to that purpose, but he will prevent their printing any more letters, and he has caused put three printers of lampoons into the rath house on bread and water.

Baron Heams, the second Imperial minister, has been at Amsterdam offering the Silesia Loan, and got Mr. Clifford and six other considerable merchants to begin the subscription *pro formâ* for large sums, but it was discouraged, and these gentlemen finding nobody follow their example retired their subscriptions; one Claude Louis Surmont, the Imperial banker, gave great hopes at first, but could not perform; any packets addressed to that man may be worth looking into. Mons. Le Clerke, the Arminian or rather Socinian professor, is one of the great correspondents with the party in England, and communicates all his correspondence by Mons. Vanden Bempbde, the late president Echevin, to the party that is for war. It is this Vanden Bempbde who proposed to have me banished, but I have obtained that both he and Le Clerc (*sic*) have a reprimand. I wish I were as able as Dr. Bentley to expose Le Clerc, for his politics are very malicious and as scandalous as his religion.

The Swedes having taken fifteen Dutch ships which were trading to Riga, and other Moscovite conquests, the States have resolved to equip a strong squadron to send into the Baltic to secure their trade and to bring that fleet safe home.

I had almost forgot to tell your Lordship who it is that Le Clerc pretends to have his instructions from in England, one is a Lord who lives in Piccadilly who has a handsome lady, the other lives in Westminster, to whom he dedicated his edition of Livy, and had two hundred pounds for a present.

All friends to peace long to see your cessation published by sea, and that you have a free and open trade to Spain for English ships, and

some noise about a great sea equipage may do no harm. The new lottery here will take some time to fill, it is to pay some debts of the Admiralty, which are drowned over head and ears, and in a very bad condition. The Imperialists begin to think the States will abandon them, and are projecting methods with the Empire to carry on the war without them and England, they offer great things to the Duke of Savoy, such as "Manatona," and hope to keep Portugal on their side; but the States fear that Portugal may desert the alliance.

I shall not trouble your Lordship at this time with anything about my own affairs; they depend much now on Mr. Hoare and Gibbon; all the rest are easy.

Sir Christopher Musgrave to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, July 29. Edenhall—Since my coming here I have made it my business to try how these counties would stand affected against another election, and I perceive that with the least encouragement from you I could have a great sway in the choice of candidates, but with many difficulties while those who are so publicly your opposers are continued in all the places of trust.

I formerly applied to be Governor of Carlisle but received a very satisfactory answer that such governments were designed for military men only, but I find it was generally expected that I should succeed Lord Carlisle, both that government and the interest having commonly been in one of the families. I humbly request therefore that I may not now be refused this favour, since the profit of it will be inconsiderable to any officer of distinction.

Petition of Dr. Ralph Blomer.

1712, July 30—Alleges that the hopes of succeeding to the rectory of St. Andrew's, Holborn, had been lodged in his family for above forty-two years, by three several presentations successively granted by the late Earl of Northumberland and the late Duke of Montagu.

The first presentation to take place on the death or resignation of Dr. Stillingfleet, had been set aside by the promotion of Dr. Stillingfleet to the bishopric of Worcester. The second by the promotion of his successor, Dr. Moore, to the see of Norwich. The third now lies in the gift of the crown by the promotion of Dr. Manningham to the bishopric of Chichester.

Prays her Majesty that the rectory may now be granted to him, in consideration of the above circumstances.

W. Bromley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, July 30. Baginton—I did not doubt the new elections being according to your Lordship's desires. I am sure, if a judgment may be made of the rest of the kingdom from what I meet with, the majority of no House of Commons ever gave greater satisfaction; insomuch that many wish the Triennial Act repealed. An honest gentleman near me (who behaved himself unexceptionably in all other respects) has suffered so much in his interest that he will scarce recover it, upon a report that he withdrew at the first question the last session upon the Duke of Marlborough, because he could not think the taking of the bread money illegal, though he agreed it to be unwarrantable.

You have the hearts of the people at home; and I am glad you have so good a prospect of affairs abroad, notwithstanding all the artifices of avarice, malice, and envy to disappoint them.

LORD MIDDLETON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, July 30. Wollaton, near Nottingham—The Duke of Leeds being dead there is a vacancy of Justice in Eyre and Sherwood Forest, being I think the only one in her Majesty's hands on this side Trent, I hope you will think me a proper person to execute that office. Being last night with the Duchess of Newcastle she was pleased to tell me I should be agreeable to her, and that she had no thoughts of recommending any other, and advised me to make early application for it.

JAMES HARRIES to [LORD HARLEY].

1712, August 1. Lantrissent—Lord Mansel came safe to Margam last night. He rode from the water side home in one day, being 48 miles, and was for hunting a buck the second day after.

I wish all happiness and success to you in your close siege at Newcastle, and hope it will not be long before we have the news of the surrender of that important castle. You will pardon your humble servant's freedom on this merry subject.

I beg your favour on behalf of Dr. Wynn, candidate for the President's place at Jesus College, in the room of Dr. Edwards. The University has given him ample testimonial by choosing him Margaret Professor. Dr. Stratford and Dr. Smalridge can give him a true character.

ELIZA COLLETON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, August 4. Bath—About the state of Lord Rivers's health. concludes "with all the duty of a niece, your Lordship's most humble obedient servant."

SIR J[OHN] CONWAY, M.P. for Flint, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, August 7.—I took the liberty once before to acquaint you with the straits I am in at present, which keeps me in town at great expense, and from my family which is large. The Queen giving me one thousand pounds for my pictures would make me easy until I can sell two estates that lie in Rutlandshire and Leicestershire. I ask the Queen no more than I would take from a private person.

NAR[CISSUS] LUTTRELL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, August 12. Encouraged by your former kindnesses I made bold to recommend my son Francis to your favour, and took the freedom to name the Stamp Office. I am informed there will very speedily be an alteration in the Commissioners for managing those duties.

The EARL OF KINNOULL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, August 14. Edinburgh—I received your Lordship's letter by the flying packet at Berwick Monday night at ten o'clock. I came from thence to town next day, and Mar and Loudoun came the day

following. We had a very good journey and Finlater's election, which was this day, has gone as right as the Queen could wish, there being a unanimous concurrence of thirty-two peers present and twenty-three proxies. My Lord Lithgoe had made a very great interest for himself, but he cheerfully submitted to the Queen's pleasure, not only voted himself but brought Lord Elphinstone's proxy for my Lord Finlater. Several of our peers are mightily disappointed, expecting upon this occasion to have got former promises performed. This with the general dissatisfaction that is in all of them with the last winter's hard treatment of the peers, brings them to be in so bad humour that I thought it best at present to divert making any address to the Queen. The Duke of Hamilton wrote to my Lord Mar telling him that it was absolutely fit the peers should lay hold of this occasion to address, thereby to give the Queen a new arise to lay that matter before the Parliament. If her Majesty thinks this proper, an address may be had much better after this than now, and in smoother terms, for I never see a multitude do business right. This determined my Lord Mar and me to go presently to the country, which we do to-morrow morning. If your Lordship thinks fit to let us know what shall be done in this matter I believe it may be done accordingly; I shall give no further trouble now, but wait your Lordship's commands and obey them as punctually as I can.

The Earl of Dunbarton to [the Earl of Oxford?].

1712, August 15. Dublin—I am here in a very extraordinary country, its principles are detestable, it has more at heart the interest of our good allies the Hollanders than that of their own country. Here I see revived that detestable custom which the Flanders army had some time back of drinking to the confusion of, and cursing, the ministry. Our great Queen herself is not free from the scandalous censure of the adherents of Lord Wharton, who is the tutelary God whom our Whigs invoke and adore as the sole preserver of their country and their cursed principles. Such honest people and true servants of her Majesty as there are here are fortunate in having Phipps as Chancellor, whose prudence and wisdom are excited every day towards driving these diabolical principles out of the country.

I hope that though removed from your person you will not entirely forget me. I am ready to sacrifice my life at the head of the regiment to support your interests. The regiment under my command here as lieutenant-colonel is ready to follow me, notwithstanding that the principles of Lord Mountjoy, the colonel, conform to those of the generality of the country, and are entirely opposed to mine.

French.

Richard Steele to the Earl of Oxford.

1712, August 16. Bloomsbury Square—The generous treatment which I have had from your Lordship exacts all that I am capable of doing, for the advancement of anything more immediately under your administration. You have given me leave to do it, and I shall presume to lay before you my thoughts which I believe may contribute to the public service and your Lordship's reputation as a minister.

The enclosed [missing] you will observe is calculated for heightening the value of the lottery tickets, and I humbly entreat

you to consider it, with attention. As certainly as men are true to their own interests it will have a general acceptance. I do not pretend to the merit of it, but it was put into the present form by the joint pains of Mr. Moore of the Temple and myself. Mr. Moore is a gentleman of reading, great natural talents, and indefatigable assiduity. You have favoured me without any merit towards you, and I, in gratitude, name to you one whose abilities for business would abundantly supply that defect. If your Lordship will please to allow of this undertaking, I have authority from my partner in it to say the method of executing it shall be prescribed by yourself.

KER of Kersland to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, August 18—Being languishing under such severe pressures of troubles and sickness that I would desire death as a favour if Christian resignation was not my duty; so I fall upon my knees humbly entreating your Lordship to have compassion upon such circumstances, and to hasten such orders about me as in your wisdom and goodness you think suitable. I beg pardon for so much importunity, and am your Lordship's most humble distressed and unfortunate servant.

E. DAVIES and DYMOND NIXON to the COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS.

1712, August 18. Custom House, Southwold—Yesterday about ten o'clock at night the *Prince* Packet boat came to an anchor in the Bay and the following passengers came on shore, viz.:—

Sir Andrew Chadwick, Bart, about twenty-five years of age, middle sized and slender, and of a black complexion.

Monsieur le Marquis de Gerini, Gentleman of Florence, tall and thin, and of a fair complexion (with one Italian servant) about twenty-four years old.

Captain Richard Leven, aide-de-camp to the Earl of Barrymore.

Monsieur Roseillio, merchant, lives generally at the Hague, about sixty-five years old, of a middle stature, black complexion, with one Swiss servant

Monsieur Deseeter, has been naturalized, of a strong proportioned body, fair and tall and near fifty years of age.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, August 18.—The notice your Lordship was pleased to take of my melancholy case stated in the preface to the "Review," and the goodness wherewith you were pleased to express it to me make deep impressions on a mind fixed to you by so many obligations.

At the same time that I profess not to plead it as merit I acknowledge it is to my honour that the indignity and reproach cast on me by these unhappy people is levelled at your Lordship. Providence having placed you out of their reach (may it ever be so!) they fall upon him they can hurt, to show their rage at you, whom they cannot; as the dog bites the stone flung at him, not daring or not able to touch the hand that throws it.

I endeavour to practice the great work of resignation under the injurious treatment I receive, submitting it to his disposal, who in a like occasion (though of higher moment) bade Shimei curse, but left him not unrewarded. It is my satisfaction that as their rage is a testimony

to the weight and to the conviction of what I say, so you are pleased to approve my service, and thereby add a weight to it, which I have not modesty little enough to think it deserves. God and your Lordship are witnesses for me against this generation, in that your goodness to me was founded on no principles of bribery and corruption, but a generous compassion to a man oppressed by power without a crime, and abandoned even then by those he sacrificed himself to serve. The same witnesses are a testimony for me that my services (however small) are founded rather, and indeed entirely, on a deep sense of duty and gratitude for that early goodness, than on any view that I can merit what may be to come. You have always acted with me on such foundations of mere abstracted bounty and goodness that it has not so much as suggested the least expectation on your part, that I should act this way or that, leaving me at full liberty to pursue my own reason and principles, and above all enabling me to declare my innocence in the black charge of bribery.

Whatever you have done for me, you never yet so much as intimated (though ever so remotely) that you expected from me the least bias in what I should write, or that her Majesty's bounty to me was intended to guide my opinion. Your Lordship has too much honour in your principle to look that way, or to think me worth your notice, if I could have been so moved; and how would these people blush, should I own to them, that her Majesty's bounty, which I now enjoy, was procured for me by your intercession, even under the administration of your worst enemies.

This fills me with peace under all their clamour that I serve a master who scorns the service of a mercenary conscience, and who at the same time that he does me good, leaves me full liberty to obey the dictates of my own principles.

This, my Lord, gives me room to declare, as I do in print every day, that I am neither employed, dictated to, or rewarded for, or in, what I write by any person under heaven; and I make this acknowledgment with thankfulness to your Lordship, and as a testimony to your great goodness to me, that you never laid the least injunction on me of one kind or other, to write or not to write this or that, in any case whatsoever. It is, however, my great satisfaction, that what first is founded on principle and reason, agreeable to conscience, equity, and the good of my country, aye, and to these unhappy people's interest too, if they understood their interest, is at the same time agreeable to your Lordship, and that while I am rendering you service I am discharging the debt of justice to truth and liberty, the great principle on which I hope I shall never cease to act; and which while I pursue I am always sure to please and oblige you.

I most humbly ask your pardon for this excursion, a heart oppressed as mine by public reproach (without guilt) must needs be full, and as I am driven by the torrent upon a more entire dependence on your Lordship, so have I no human appeal but to yourself. However I cease to enlarge on this unpleasant subject, having yet a further humble application to make, for which I have still more reason to ask pardon.

I hinted to you my desire to take a journey North; I will not dissemble so far with you as not to own, that a little business part of the way, and withal the direction of physicians for my going to the Bath in Derbyshire, join in to make me desirous of going. But I am persuaded also, I may be more useful to your Lordship in a small circuit on that side at this time, as well for counteracting the measures

taken to distract the country, as for calming and quieting the minds of the poor prepossessed people than ever I was yet; and as the juncture for such a business seems proper, and leisure at home agrees, I am your humble petitioner for leave.

But I am yet straitened in the rest of my petition. Your goodness to me is too great to allow me the least solicitation for further favours than I enjoy, nor am I representing the expenses of my journey, for which your Lordship had always the goodness to make me large allowance. But I am forced by importuning circumstances to remind you that of that allowance or appointment, which by your intercession and her Majesty's goodness I enjoy, there are two quarters behind which insensibly (except to me) elapsed, during the melancholy interval when your Lordship was hurt and things unsettled. I say no more! I am a very mean advocate in my own case, and had rather my circumstances should silently move your tenderness and compassion, than that by importunity I should be forward and craving; God has cast me on your goodness so entirely that He seems to direct me thereby to a more close application than ever to your interest and service; for sure, whenever I shall be deprived of your favour or assistance, if this party can make me miserable, they will not fail to do it to the utmost.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Mr. Guilot, August 19 (*sic*), 1712."

PETER WENTWORTH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1712, August 21.] Thursday—I hope you will excuse the liberty I now take to let you know that it is not I that solicit the employment of my Lord Rivers for my Lord Strafford, but 'tis he himself does it by me, you having assured him that if the death of Lord Rivers should happen before he came home again he might depend upon it he might have Lord Rivers' employments.

I would not be so positive in this affair, but that I have had more than one letter from my brother not to slip a moment's time as soon as ever I heard Lord Rivers was dead to solicit your Lordship that he might succeed him.

The DUKE OF ARGYLL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, August 21. London—It is absolutely fit Mr. Earle should go before me, because we cannot think of transporting the troops to Mahon till measures be taken for their subsistence. The payment of the troops should also be in his hands, and so save the expense of a paymaster, which I am told is now above 1,000*l.* a year.

I know you are willing I should be gone as soon as possible, for which reason I must put you in mind that there is still unpaid me 200*l.* as ambassador, and a year within a few days on the other account. I hope your Lordship will be pleased to give orders about it.

THOMAS HARLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, [August 23-]September 2, N.S. Hanover—I received a letter from you of the 23 August accompanied with one from my Lord Strafford, and a particular account of Azzurini and the affair of Sweden, but not one word of the Queen's orders by Lord Dartmouth, which I was the more surprised at because it seems to have been

necessary. However, I have pressed on as well as I could. This day his Electoral Highness returned from his hunting-seat, and I represented to him what relates to Azzurini; he cannot think Mr. Bothmer so weak as to hearken to such a *fripon* as he appears to be; however he cannot judge of this affair till he has informed himself particularly. His Highness seems to know nothing of Mr. Bothmer's sending the projects of that vermin here, yet I am of opinion it is possible, though he knows nothing of it, others about the Court may have had the custody of this secret in order to make something of it.

As to the King of Sweden the Elector owns a friendship for him, and would do him any good offices without engaging himself so far as might draw him into acts of hostility, he having already resolved to observe a neutrality between that King and those in war with him. I told him that unless the Princes who had a mind to do good offices to the King of Sweden showed themselves in a condition to bring the aggressors to reason all endeavours and solicitations would prove ineffectual. Then he was pleased to say that the King of Sweden has not yet made his resolutions known even to his own ministers, nor empowered them how to act, till that be understood no one knows how to serve him, and farther he thinks the King of Sweden should make peace; this is all I could have from a long conversation.

I hope the letters to Madam the Electress and the Elector will be very proper, but for the other letter, if your Lordship leaves it to me, I know what I shall do, but I ought not to trust my own opinion, because I desired to come away a month ago, and was overruled. However, if it be her Majesty's pleasure I am content, let it be as long as it will, but then I wish my Lord Bolingbroke had told me so that I might have secured winter quarters, for though one may do well enough a fortnight or three weeks as a passenger, in process of time it grows insupportable.

My Lord Johnstone desires me to put your Lordship in mind of what he wrote in his letter, therefore I will not repeat it, and only add that he is very deserving, and has ability as well as zeal to serve a Queen who has overcome greater difficulties abroad than at home, for at home her Majesty had some friends.

J[ohn] Macky to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, August 25. Dover—Earl Poulett has told me that you are fully informed of my case, which gives me hope that you will not ruin a man that never did you hurt, and who, after twenty years' application to the service of the Crown of England, will want bread when his packet boats are laid aside. Reflect upon my case before you dismiss me, and consider whether one that has been active under several administrations will not study to be useful to you, when gratitude for saving him from starving will be an additional obligation upon him.

The Earl of Orrery to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, August 26—I designed to have waited upon you to-morrow morning, but for fear I should not have an opportunity of speaking so fully to you in so great a crowd as you will then probably have about you, I have thought it better to write. I find your Lordship is in-

clined to believe I may be of some use at Brussels before the peace, which is a point that I was dubious in myself from my observation of the terms we were upon with the Emperor and the Dutch, and particularly from my knowledge of the disposition of the people of the Netherlands; but since there is now an appearance that these allies of ours are like to come to a better temper, and since by accounts that I have lately seen from Brussels those gentlemen seem desirous to comply with the Queen's intentions, and even talk of sending over hither a deputation to beg her favour, I do not despair of being able to do some service there.

If I am to go thither I am confident you as well as I must be of opinion that I should be going as soon as possible, and I do assure you I will lose no time in preparing myself for my journey as soon as my affairs are done here, which I think you seemed to agree should be dispatched immediately. I flatter myself that your friendship for me, your interest with the Queen, her own kind disposition towards me, and the worthless character of that creature that at present walks about with the staff we talked of, will secure me from all possible danger of any longer delay in that affair. When that is done, and my money paid me, which you signed a warrant for so long ago, I shall be enabled to set out from hence in a very little time, for I think after I have received my money I can be ready to go in eight or ten days' time. If I have it this week I hope to be able to go with the Duke of Argyll, which will make part of my journey the more agreeable to me. I am sorry I was obliged to use so much importunity for this money, rather than press you for it, I chose to suffer great inconveniences a considerable time for want of it with patience and silence, and now to give you an instance of my desire to be as little uneasy to you as possible, I will content myself with this twelvemonth's salary that the warrant is signed for at present, and will stay for what more is already or shall be due to me, till I come back, if I have occasion to stay abroad no longer than you and I myself think I shall, which in probability cannot be more than two months or thereabouts.

The Earl of Kinnoull to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, August 26. Dupplin House—Sir Patrick Murray has now got all the Clans' receipts. The last of them came to his hands but the other day, otherwise they had been sent sooner. He has now sent them to my son to be delivered upon retiring the receipt he gave for the money. The whole sum paid to the Clans is 3,450*l.*, so that he having received 4,000*l.*, there is yet in his hands 550*l.* If I remember right the first payment was for a year preceding Martinmas 1711, and they were by the agreement to be paid every half year thereafter, to wit, at Whitsunday and Martinmas. If so there are due at Whitsunday last a half year, and the other half year not due till Martinmas next, but you know best the bargain, and can judge best whether it will be more proper to pay them at two terms or at one, because they live at so great a distance, some of them in the far Isles, where there is not good access to or from them. Ouchtertyre is of opinion that it would be more easy and more agreeable to the Clans to pay them at one term in the year, either Whitsunday or Martinmas. Ouchtertyre desires an order under your hand to pay that money to the Clans, or that you would order that money to be paid to him, without his giving

a receipt for it, which he would like better, for he does not incline to have his receipt lying in the Exchequer, lest he may be called to account for it hereafter.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, August 27.—According to your order I have enclosed an exact copy of the letter which I received from Scotland, so far as relates to the thing I mentioned to you.

As I acquainted your Lordship with the name of the person from whom I received the said account, I take this occasion to assure you that the character of that gentleman is such as may recommend him upon all occasions to your interest and favour, and as may render him particularly useful to you in case the Squadroni take any measures against the Government; of all which by this means a constant true account of every step may be obtained. More is not proper to say till occasion makes it for your Lordship's service. But this, I thought, particularly needful that you may always know who may be depended upon, and who not.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Guilot, Scotland."

Enclosure.

We have had in this country a great confluence of people about five miles from the Earl of Hyndford's seat of Carmichael, who on Thursday the 25th of July to the number of about 8 or 9,000 people met in the fields on occasion of receiving the sacrament, the Sabbath following. Preparatory to the sacrament the said Thursday was their fast, when, in the first place, they solemnly renewed the covenant, though they thought fit to exclude that part of it which mentions the Government and Established Church. They then went on publicly confessing their sins, though I believe they confessed not the greatest of them; among other sins they insisted on the crime of hearing and joining with the present ministers and the Kirk.

At this rate they spent three whole days, most of them lying all night on the hills, and on the ground till the Sabbath following, when the Sacrament was administered to them. Before which, pronouncing as is usual the Commination, they publicly excommunicated her Majesty by name, the whole British Parliament, and all the established Kirk ministers. One Mr. McMillan is their leader, being an ordained minister, but deposed by the Assembly, and he has one Mr. Neil for his assistant, who was never ordained; what carries off these poor people so much at this time is the apprehensions they are under that their ministers will take the Abjuration.

They had no arms, nor do I see that they have any thoughts of disturbing the peace, but you know some people who may in time make use of such a thing, especially if their numbers increase; and it would be well if the government would please to post some troops at hand, to be some awe to those who hope for some advantage from the poor people's folly. (*Copy in De Foe's handwriting.*)

Dr. Francis Atterbury to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, August 31. Christ Church—Recommending Mr. Davies, of Hart Hall, a clergyman well esteemed in his profession, an excellent

scholar, and with a talent for deciphering, to succeed Mr. Blencowe. A little piece he wrote in defence of Dr. Higden shows him to have a very good pen, as well as a good head. His ability in deciphering might be tried before he is pitched upon.

KER OF KERSLAND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, September 1—My condition being now such as if known to you would certainly draw pity from your justice and generous compassion, I do upon my knees again beg for God's sake your Lordship would hasten such orders about me as in your goodness and wisdom you think suitable.

Being very sorry to hear of some extravagancies committed by the Cameronians in Scotland, I do declare solemnly I had no accession thereto directly or indirectly, being diverted by my own difficulties from any correspondence with them these two years bygone.

MARSHAL VILLARS to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1712, September [1-]12, N.S. The Camp at Presseau—Immediately after the affair of Denain, the principal officers of the enemy taken in this action spoke very freely that all their friends in England assured them that a revolution was imminent in that kingdom, that they were prepared for it, and that the expectation of it maintained the alliance. I at once warned the Duke of Ormond of this, begging him to convey the news to you, being persuaded however that it was difficult to communicate anything of importance which a minister of such deep penetration would not already have found out.

I cannot now refrain from telling you that Count Hompesch, governor of Douay, one of the first and most trusted generals of the enemy, held similar discourse yesterday, and flattered himself that the resolution was near at hand.

I am not surprised that the defeated party in England wish by such hopes to support their friends in Holland, who are cast down by the misfortunes of the war; and perhaps the desire of assuring of my humble services a minister whose sublime genius is the admiration of Europe has more share in this letter than the belief that this news is of much importance.

It is very certain that there is no good Frenchman who does not regard the interests of the good English as his own, and no honest man in the world to whom your interests would not be precious. *French. Signed.*

Addressed:—"M. le Comte d'Oxfort."

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, September 3—Since I had the honour to acquaint you of the affair in Scotland I have had several concurring accounts, both of the fact and subsequent circumstances, but do not find there have been any more assemblies of the nature of that I formerly gave account of. But as the increase of that party to the degree mentioned was not without some extraordinary application of emissaries and busy people, who diligently foment the popular notions of that poor distracted people, so if those leaders are not in some manner discouraged or removed from them there may be many ill consequences to be appre-

hended. I believe you know I am an enemy to all coercions in matter of religion, or (and indeed more especially) of enthusiasm, and am convinced that there is no way so effectual to confirm and increase this disorder, than to fall upon them with force, and put the laws in execution severely upon them. But some method may in your Lordship's wisdom be perhaps thought of to take from them that poor ignorant incendiary who now leads them into all these wild things.

This I say the rather because all my accounts agree that he goes about increasing the evil and confirming the poor people in their notions with too much success, and will certainly at last precipitate them into some mischievous thing to their own ruin, and to the injury of the public.

If you think fit to approve the design I had of a private tour to the Border I would have gone incognito among some of these people, and have given you a more exact and impartial account both of the people and of the reasons of their new appearance, and perhaps have found out some of the persons also, whom I cannot but think it is very much for the service of the Government to discover.

I hope your Lordship is fully satisfied that I have no other view in this part than the public service. As for my particular journey, which I am under a little necessity of taking into Derbyshire, if your Lordship does not approve of the other, I shall only beg leave for about a fortnight, and shall not fail, God willing, to be here again in that time. I do confess it has been upon my mind that I might be useful in the country upon many accounts, but I submit that and myself wholly to your Lordship's direction, only beg again your licence for the small step above.

Postscript.—I send here one of their distracted papers on occasion of the Public Fast.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Guilot."

E. Stawell to [Lord Harley].

1712, September [3-]14, N.S. Barcelona—The last time I did myself this honour was from Genoa to let you know that, though I had left no shop unsearched in any town through which I had passed in Italy, I had not been able to meet with either of your books; but that I had sent to an acquaintance of mine at Venice, who I hoped would be able to get them.

The Dutch Admiral sailed from hence Wednesday last; that fleet is to rendezvous at Majorca, and from thence they go home. People here are very angry with us and peace; though they date the loss of their country from the battle of Brihuega. I believe it might be proved that Mr. Stanhope marched to that town contrary to the orders in writing and advice of Marshal Staremberg; that when Mr. Stanhope was invested he sent the Marshal word he could defend himself eight and forty hours, and afterwards surrendered in fourteen. We are now leaving this place, and turning a little towards England.

Ker of Kersland to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, September 5—Again dwelling on his unfortunate circumstances, his past services, and the hardships put upon him by the preceding administration. By his long attendance here upon the public

account and his Lordship's commands, he had contracted debts for which he now lay languishing miserably in gaol, and must now perish if not instantly relieved.

SIR THOMAS POWYS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, September 6—I having some time since unfortunately, and to my very great surprise, received in the House of Commons a public disgrace from a great minister, for whom I had the greatest honour, I soon found the effect of it; for they who judge by outward signs conclude me under the disgust of the present Ministry, as I had been under that of the old, and I have accordingly met with such treatment from some persons, as I should not otherwise have had. This hath made me too importunate (I must confess) with my true friend, Mr. Auditor, that I might receive some mark of esteem from the Government for my own sake, and for the sake of one who is now become part of my family; and since you were pleased with very kind expressions, to take notice of it to my brother of the Treasury, I could not forbear giving you this trouble of acknowledging your constant kindness.

CAMERON, of Lochiel, to CAPT. JOHN OGILVIE.

1712, September 9. Lochaber—I arrived here two days ago and would have written sooner had I not met with an accident on the road. I was a little indisposed at the time I came off, and I would not have taken this journey in hand were it not to oblige our great friend, and to serve him, that the world might see (by the paper in my custody now) that this party will support him to their uttermost against all factions. Those with whom my business is are so dispersed at this juncture that it will take much more time than I expected before I can end with them. Not one has discovered me, but such as I made myself known to, and with whom my business was. You may tell our great friend that you heard from me, and that I am making all the despatch I can. Some malicious incendiaries here would gladly persuade his friends here that he had ensnared them, and would not continue what was promised and begun; but I assured them he was a man of honour, and they would find he would deal so with them to the end of the chapter. His health was drunk heartily here this day, wishing him a long life, and prosperity in all his just and great undertakings.

COL. JASPER CLAYTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, September [10-]21, N.S. Dunkirk—Touching the serious illness of Mr. Hill, governor of Dunkirk, the news of which he feared to send to Lord Masham, lest it should fall into Lady Masham's hands, and be of great prejudice to her health. Dr. Friend, from Ghent, had been there for seven days, and gave no great hopes of his doing well.

DR. AR[THUR] CHARLETT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, September 13. Hambledon, near Henley upon Thames—I presume to send the enclosed, which I received yesterday from Oxford, and having at the same time been informed of a vacancy of a Prebend in the Church of Worcester, by the death of Mr. Laughton, of Cambridge, I beg your Lordship's pardon humbly to desire your inter-

cession with her Majesty, in my behalf, who am now, I believe, the eldest chaplain in the service of the Crown unpreferred. I pretend to no other title to her Majesty's favour, than having been so long in the number of her servants. Dr. Edwards, who was a great honourer of your Lordship, told me the day before he died his attendance as chaplain, ever since the Revolution, had cost him near six hundred pounds, and that he had heard the Queen did not seem willing to prefer an unmarried clergyman; her Majesty may not know how unwelcome and inconvenient a family is thought in a small college. I humbly beg your pardon a thousand times, for the vanity of mentioning such things to you; were either our Chancellor or Mr. Speaker near you I should have obtained their favourable recommendation.

SIR JOHN BLAND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, September 14. Hulme, near Manchester—The gentlemen at Lancaster were pleased unanimously to declare for my son to be joined with Mr. Shuttleworth, and my interest was so strong that notwithstanding the formidable plot that had been laid, and that I battled it with the wind in my teeth, they surrendered at discretion rather than put it to the vote.

Postscript.—Mr. Lowther did his utmost last week to have got a Whig mayor for Pontefract for this next year, but my friends have given him an entire defeat, and he durst not stand a poll.

JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.

[1712, September 17, *received.*] Amsterdam—I am very unwilling to trouble your Lordship with anything that I am able to inform you of from hence, otherwise I would take the freedom to write oftener. Our chief man here in the peaceable interest told me yesterday, and desired me to acquaint my friends that the States had resolved to give Mons. Mesnager satisfaction of the affront which he pretends to have suffered by Count Rechteren's people's insulting and beating his servants in his presence, and that the States have accepted Count Rechteren's demission, that the negotiations may not be postponed by the French refusing to enter into any where he might be present.

This gentleman said at the same time that their ministers had engaged themselves so deep with the Imperialists without a due communication, that it was very difficult to disengage the State again, unless some branch thereof took a resolution without any regard to such engagements to push the peace which is become so necessary, and which by a misunderstanding (nobody knows how) with England, has been so unreasonably avoided and retarded; and that this town, who was the occasion chiefly of the States coming into the holding conferences at Utrecht, he believed must take it upon them if further obstacles were thrown in their way, to finish the affair; that there had been an eloquent speech made at the last meeting of the States of this province in favour of a new Capitation Tax, which would raise thirty millions of guilders, but that the deputies of this town opposed the great minister in that proposal, meantime the States were again ordered to meet that day and he hoped that some resolution would be taken to advance measures for a general peace.

Baron Heams, the Imperial Envoy, has all this summer been proposing the Silesia Loan, which they "paunded" in England, and it

would not go forward, till of late Mr. Clifford, by encouragement from England, has advanced forty thousand pounds on that loan, and is negotiating one hundred and sixty thousand pounds more on it, the interest to be paid yearly at the rate of seven per cent. per annum at his house, with one fifth part of the capital yearly, so that in five years the whole will be repaid. Without this sum the Imperial forces in Flanders, who are almost living at discretion on the country already, must have been without pay or have been supported by this State, and by this sum, and some new impositions on Brabant and Flanders, they propose to maintain the whole Imperial corps this winter in Brabant and Flanders; this at least is what Baron Heams gives out here.

By the enclosed from my friend in the army commanded by Prince Eugene your Lordship may see their opinion of matters. Since Prince Eugene has done my Lord Albemarle the justice to write to the Grand Pensionary, a letter in his Lordship's vindication is published about the affair of Denain. The people here blame the Prince himself, and are very angry at his not saving their great train of artillery out of Quesnoy before the French laid siege to it, which artillery they value above two hundred thousand pounds sterling.

The great veneration I have for your Lordship and all your good family, to whom I owe so many obligations, make me acquaint your Lordship with a report we have here and at Utrecht, that Lady Betty Harley is to be married to my Lord Cornbury, who is a very pretty gentleman and cannot fail to do well if under your Lordship's government, having but one fault, which he brought with him from the University, and the esteem I have for his family made me take a great deal of freedom with him on that subject, finding at his return from his travels that it had not left him. We also hear that it was the Queen's proposal, which cannot but make it the more happy, and I am sure it cannot be so happy as I wish.

Notwithstanding some affronts by drunken rascally people offered to my Lord Strafford's house and several others at the Hague lately, the people are in general more settled as to their inclinations for peace, neither do we find any altogether against peace as formerly, except the French refugees who expect to gain little by it, and never pay anything towards the war.

Sir Amb[rose] Crowley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, September 18. Greenwich—I am informed that her Majesty's pleasure is to add several gentlemen to the present Commissioners for building the fifty new churches.

I being very desirous to have Greenwich church built with all prudent speed, and to forward her Majesty's good intention (which is all I have in view), humbly pray your favour that I may be one of that number.

Abigail Lady Masham to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1712, September 18, *endorsed*]. Thursday morning half an hour past eight—I will not trouble you with a long letter, because the doctor writes, and is able to give your Lordship a more perfect account than I can do, he having sat up with the Queen the last night. I am now at the back stairs, but have not yet seen her Majesty, for she is trying to go to sleep again, and ordered nobody should come in. The doctor

tells me she passed the night as well as could be expected, and is in great hopes it will go off without either ague or fever; as soon as I shall see her I will acquaint her with the reason of your not coming down. I and Mr. (*sic*) Masham are your Lordship's most obedient servants.

THE SAME to [the SAME].

[Same date, *endorsed.*] Thursday one o'clock—Having an opportunity of sending by one that goes from my Lord Dartmouth's I knew your Lordship would be glad to hear how the Queen is after rising; she is very free from any fever, feels herself pretty well, only a little dispirited; no pain in her head or any where else; she was a little sick at her stomach just when she got out of bed, but that complaint soon went off. I read your Lordship's letter to her, she approved of your not coming, for the same reason you gave. I hope in God I shall be able to write you the good news to-morrow of her being perfectly well.

THE SAME to [the SAME].

[1712, September 19.] Friday morning ten o'clock—I thank God the Queen is much better and had a pretty good night; but she was in so great pain and uneasiness yesterday I could not help being frightened, though the doctor assured me it was nothing but a fit of the gravel; the doctor has given your Lordship a particular account so I will give you no trouble at this time.

HENRY, BISHOP OF LONDON, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, September 19. Fulham—On behalf of Captain Adams, ill rewarded for his services by the Duke of Marlborough, who was fitted to govern one of the Plantations; and of Mr. Forbes, a Hampshire gentleman, very active and serviceable in the late elections, suitable for the government of Maryland, who had promised if he obtained that government to redeem a parish in Essex that had hitherto been left to the mercy of the Fanatics, and would settle the estate he had there, worth 100*l.* per annum, upon the church, and leave it entirely to my disposal, a benefaction which does not often fall out.

Her Majesty has an estate at Pleshey, in Essex, which costs her every year 25*l.* more than the income, and the living has nothing to maintain a minister. It is a place of considerable antiquity, and hath several of the Royal family interred there. I have made shift by the contribution of several gentlemen in the country and mine own, with her Majesty's assistance, to build up the church anew; and the present impropriator, a very honest gentleman, is willing to sell the tithes, I believe, for 300*l.*, if her Majesty will be so kind as to lay down the money.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, September 20. Lincoln—I had not been so long before I paid my duty to your Lordship, but that I have been for some time out of

the reach of the post; but as I shall now continue to give you a full account of whatever occurs worth your notice, so I cannot omit a few hints of what is already past.

Meeting with an accidental invitation, and my curiosity joining in, I went from Stourbridge fair, which I had made my first stage, towards Lynn, where resolving to be incognito, I found I had room for many speculations. Here, asking your licence to jest a little with what is indeed the nation's disaster, I found myself out of her Majesty's dominions, and in the capital city of the territories of King Walpole. Here I have seen what I confess it is difficult to express, and what I could not have thought had been in the nature, much less in the practice, of Protestants or English subjects. Here I have seen with some horror the spirit of parties in its highest extraction, how her Majesty is treated among them would fill any man who makes loyalty and duty to his sovereign a principle with indignation, any man who values the peace and tranquillity of his country with abhorrence, and any man that has his senses in exercise with contempt and aversion.

If they do this in the green tree, what shall they do in the dry! The disciple is not above his Lord, if her Majesty is thus treated among them, your Lordship and all that serve her Majesty and their country faithfully share most plentifully of their rage, in a manner I blush for them too much to relate. But your Lordship has learnt from a superior pattern to pity and contemn the madness of the people. God Almighty, who has placed her Majesty and all her faithful servants out of the reach of their hands, be praised for the safety enjoyed by it.

You cannot doubt, but where a party with such a temper seem to prevail and have what they call a leading interest, the people smothered with the smoke or mist of their delusions suffer a general inflammation, and are made lunatic with the madness of their leaders; what strange things they are made to believe, what wild inconsistent notions they have infused into the minds of one another, what preposterous ridiculous incongruous things take up their heads is incredible, and but for the novelty of them are not worth repeating. Such as, that the Queen is for the Pretender; the ministry under the protection of France; that Popery is to be tolerated; that as soon as a peace is declared the war with the Dutch will be proclaimed; that the French are to keep their trade to the South Seas; that the people will be brought to address the Queen not to interrupt the hereditary right of the Royal line since the heir is willing to abjure Popery; and the like. As far as consisted with my resolution of keeping incognito, which I have effectually done, and which I thought necessary on many accounts, I have laid the foundation of undeceiving the poor people in these things, and have effectually convinced the Dissenting minister and two leading men among the Dissenters, who with astonishment look back upon the delusions they have been under, and who, I doubt not, will in a short time undeceive many more. I find the countries everywhere share of the general distemper, though not with the same warmth; an inclination to moderation appears among the best men everywhere, but the poison is unhappily spread from London, and especially among the Dissenters, who are made everywhere to believe that the ministry is for the Pretender, and that French government and Popery is the design. Wherever I converse with them, I find them possessed with the very same notions, which is an evidence that it is a concerted measure of the party to spread such things through the country. I also find it less difficult than I expected to open the eyes

of the honest and well meaning, and that they are eager and forward to be better informed, and hope I may not be an unprofitable servant that way, so far as this short journey will extend. I wish proper persons were on the like occasion in other parts, I am persuaded you would soon find a good effect from it.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Lincoln, Claude Guilot, Sept. 20, 1712. Rec. Oct 1."

JOHN ANSTIS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, September 20—By the enclosed inventory of the Scotch instruments (as well as from the *Regiam Majestatem*) your Lordship will observe the parity of the ancient English and Scotch laws in their officers, law terms, courts, wardships, pleadings (even in presence of their Kings), manner of conveyancing, etc. And that even before our Edward the First enjoyed that Realm, who being the Great Refiner and Justinian of our laws, might possibly (according to his former policy of substituting the English ones in Wales) bring those of Scotland to a nearer resemblance; for it appears from our records, that he made provisions for the better ordering that Government, though the particulars settled by him are not (that I know) transmitted down to us entire. Your Lordship can determine whether this analogy and correspondence between these patrons (and with Normandy also) is owing to any common original, to their vicinity, intercourse of Princes, etc., and which of them leads and follows.

However, though there was a great similitude in the old laws of this Island, yet they were not the same in all respects, since 'tis evident by a case of Dower in the Placita Parliam., 24 Ed. I., that Berwick was then ruled by the laws of Scotland, and in some cases, where the common law of England had been admitted by custom, and that Ed. III. afterwards granted the burgesses of that town the privilege of the Scotch laws, which imply (in my poor opinion) some imparity in them. But I forget to whom I am writing.

According to your Lordship's permission, I have transcribed part of a patent to Mr. Robert Glover for the place of Norroy King of Arms after the death of Mr. Wm. Flower taken from the original in the Rolls.

After so many underhand practices against me I am in no humour to owe obligations to Sir Henry St. George, especially since a reversionary grant may not put me out of the House, which a concurrent one must do for some time.

My friends are as uneasy as I am at these delays in a matter which they take to be a right, and therefore I humbly hope and beg you will please to finish it now at Windsor.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, [September 21-]October 1, N.S. Hague—I came here yesterday to wait on my Lord Albemarle, and to give his Lordship all the assistance I can in getting accounts of his unlucky affair at Denain published and spread abroad, for which his reputation has been so unjustly torn to pieces, and all men of sense begin to be convinced of the injustice done to him. He has spoken very boldly to the States and told them that a general can only be guilty of three things, viz., treachery, cowardice, or neglect, that he either desired to be tried by the Council of State or the Council of War on all or either of those points, and

desires to demit if he cannot have justice done him. The Grand Pensionary Mons. Duyvenworde and all the chief ministers promise him all the reparation of honour that can be given, but some deputies of provinces had wrote the malicious reports to their provinces with such affirmation that they cannot be brought so suddenly to call themselves liars. All the Pensionaries, Duyvenvorde, Slingerland, and those chief men aim at is to have my Lord Albemarle go over to England without any public character, and to mind the States' interest with the Queen, which in this juncture would finish his ruin here; for there is not one in ten amongst these, but believes that he lost Denain to facilitate the peace, and to make his court to England, and if he should now go over, I believe his family and estate would not be safe from the people, neither should he dare to return, for let the peace be as good now for the States as they can expect, yet it is so far short of what they puffed up the people with, that it will not please, and the incensing the people thus far against England for forcing them as they call it to a bad peace, is to carry the blame from those who so justly deserved it for neglecting former good opportunities, and for having been so lately the dupes of the faction in England.

They resolved last week to call home Admiral Peterson with their fleet, which has been two years in the Mediterranean, they consented to a new equipment of sixty sail line of battle, of which thirty-five for the Straits and twenty-five for the security of their commerce in the Channel and North Sea. The expense of this equipment is eighty hundred thousand guilders, or eight hundred thousand pounds. The funds they propose are, a capitation, or a tenth part of rent of all houses and lands, neither of which any town has yet consented to, so the equipage goes on slowly, and will come far short of the proposal, but a fleet they must have in the Mediterranean to remove their forces from Spain and Portugal, even when peace is made.

Never were such confusions and divisions known as here, both in civil and military affairs. Prince Eugene would command despotic as if the whole army were Imperialists without communication with the other generals, who have become so jealous of this that they thwart him where they can. The States deputies have insulted him, and also the Prince of Hesse, that they are wearied of the service, and the Landgraf has called home his three sons, Prince William and Maximilian are gone, and if the Prince Hereditary does not receive satisfaction from Mons. Vegelin he will demit. Mons. Hop and Vegelin are not on speaking terms. Vegelin is for hazarding a battle before they go into quarters; Hop against it, and has all this province on his side.

The Grand Pensionary complains of England, and will come to no resolution; some flatter themselves with a revolt in England, others with the Queen's death; and all swear that the Pretender is to succeed the Queen, and therefore they can never be sure of England, and that the Empire is what they must stick by. They are very uppish on the resistance the Duke of Berwick has met with in Piedmont. Count Lescherin is here, he says Mons. Steyngties serves my Lord Treasurer, and not his master, that he has a pension and is my Lord Treasurer's spy, corresponds with Prince Eugene for my Lord, and writes nothing but what he is ordered.

Lord Albemarle complains a little that the proposal of making the Duke of Savoy's family heirs to Spain and King Philip's desisting [from] it were too positively wrote him by your Lordship, and that so soon after King Philip's resigning the succession of France appeared. I must delay till I get home some further conversation.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, [September 24-]October 4, N.S. Amsterdam—I had the honour to write last post to your Lordship from the Hague, where before I departed I heard of some new projects about a Stadtholder, which is very much talked of by the wisest men, and a very considerable faction of them, some are for declaring the infant Prince of Nassau Friesland, and during his minority the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, others for the Hanover family, by which they count upon an inseparable union with England when that Prince comes to the Crown, which I hope none of the projectors will live to see vacant.

But what encourages me to trouble your Lordship with this is the general satisfaction which all reasonable men here have in the accounts by the last three English mails, that the peace is to be proclaimed in England this week, and at the same time the conditions which the Queen can obtain for the allies, to whom a certain number of months are to be given to come in to accept of these conditions, and as this State is now willing to part with Lille for some other equivalent, all the peaceable party here hope that the Queen will declare to the world what her Majesty has agreed upon for this State, that people may not be kept in ignorance, as some say that their ministers have all along kept them.

By the last letters from Genoa our Admiralty have received advice from Admiral Peterson that he was then going with the fleet to Majorca to take in water and some other refreshments, and so to proceed home with all diligence. The Germans have lost many horses in the last transport to Barcelona, and are also disappointed in an attempt against Roses, and all our accounts from Paris confirm the King of Portugal's entering into the cessation of arms.

The Squadron for the Mediterranean goes on very slowly here, and people begin to doubt whether anything above a common convoy will be equipped; I find none of the Admirals fond of the command, or as yet invited to it. We reckon Quesnoy capitulates this day, and Bouchain will make but short resistance, being ill provided, and we are quarrelling with the Germans about winter quarters. I wish they may not quarrel with us about perpetual possessions before all be done, for their General and our deputies keep no measures together.

There are still new instances made to Lord Albemarle to go to England, but I believe none of his friends here will advise him till the minds of the people are more settled, which mends daily, except with refugees and madmen. There was a report of some infectious sickness being aboard of our men-of-war in the Texel, but after very narrow enquiry, I find no manner of ground for the report. Nothing will make us long more for peace than to see England feed France with corn, and us with wine, which all the ships which go from England to Bordeaux may bring us with the same freedom which Danes and Swedes do, and I see no reason why English ships may not come here and lade all manner of goods for the Straits, providing the agreement be wit.. France, as usual, that free ships make free goods, and that Dutch effects aboard of English ships run no risk of the French.

The DUCHESS OF PORTSMOUTH to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1712, [September 24-]October 4, N.S. "Moussaux"—Desires his friendship and good offices in obtaining permission for her to come and

pay her respects to the Queen, to whom she expresses ardent devotion.
French. Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—R[eceived] from D[uke of] Richmond, Oct. 26 1712.

[Lord Harcourt] to the Lord Treasurer.

1712, September 29—Let me beg you to speak to the Queen that I may be ordered to present Dr. Sacheverell to St. Andrew's, Holborn. You will be subject to perpetual importunities if this opportunity be not taken. There cannot be so easy a way for the Queen to prefer him, as this, for the presentation being in my gift, as one of those under value, it may pass for my act, whenever it is objected to.

If it should prove impossible for me to get hither on Saturday next, pray make my excuse, but at present I intend to be here to meet you. I should be much pleased to hear by a line from your Lordship that the Queen will approve this disposition of St. Andrew's.

Col. Horace Walpole to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, September 29—At my return into Norfolk I found the county in a greater ferment than ever I knew it in, and the Whigs not only very noisy, but active in stirring and treating, and I heartily wish I could raise the same zeal in our friends, who depend too much upon the justness of their cause, and love their money too well to be roused by me; until I can give them an assurance from you they shall have a head to govern them, and it would be no small addition to their satisfaction to have the present severed.

Since I came home, I have had a great concourse of people, and met with more than common respect, but at the same time, I find the generality of the gentlemen so full of speculation with what the Whigs coin for them and their own good wishes to me, that I labour under a difficulty what answer to give my friends, who seem surprised when the Whigs tell them I have no interest, and I should not be Commissioner of Ireland, etc., too tedious and villanous to trouble your Lordship with. All which I contradicted, and assured them I was very easy and doubted not but in a short time to show I had interest enough not only to serve myself, but do them service, which I thought was the properest answer to give them, that seemed to think your Lordship's measures were slow, which I assured them was not your fault, but the slow measures of the Queen; but in a little time everything would be to their satisfaction, and I doubt not but several will change their note.

About a fortnight since I took the liberty to write to Mr. Taylor, and desired to know whether he had received your commands concerning me, but he has not thought fit to reply to me nor have I had an account from anybody whether the warrant is gone, which I hoped for long since; your Lordship assuring me (when I did myself the honour to take my leave of you) that the matter should be settled with Mr. Keysley in ten days at farthest, and that you would take effectual care of me, which I cannot suffer myself to doubt, having had her Majesty's and your Lordship's frequent assurances. If there be any delay upon a suspicion that I can't be re-elected I can assure you that my nephew has been here to assure me he would (*sic*), but begged for his quiet sake it might be a secret to everybody but your Lordship, to prevent the frequent solicitations from Lord Townshend

and some of his Corporation of Lynn set on by him to choose my namesake and before he left London. Duke Marlborough and the late Lord Godolphin did the same, but matters are so between us that I never doubted it, and wondered anybody should be so much his enemy as to advise it, especially those that pretend to be his friends.

LORD LANSDOWNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, September 30—Mr. Vincent and his son are going post tomorrow for Cornwall to be present at the election of a mayor for the town of Truro, where we are in danger, or rather, under a certainty of losing both members at the next choice for a Parliament, unless your Lordship is pleased to give your assistance. I have appropriated every penny of my own rents in that country for services of this kind, being attacked in every Corporation. It is not to be imagined what efforts have been made, and what money has been lavished upon this occasion. The contention and expense is greater than ever was known upon the choice of a Parliament, so much the enemies of the Government have thought it necessary to be before hand with us in securing the returning officers. The result therefore of my conversation with these two gentlemen who are entirely devoted to your interest is that I should in this manner acquaint you with the necessity of your help. The mayor must have a hundred pounds, and one of the magistrates, whose debts Mr. B[oscawen?] has offered to pay, which amount to about three hundred pounds, must be satisfied by us, and this will not only settle the town for the present, but for ever. Mr. Manley, who knows the particular state of this whole matter, will better inform you, but 'tis certain, if this opportunity be lost, 'tis never to be retrieved.

LOUISE, PRINCESS OF HOLSTEIN, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, October [1-]12, N.S. Rinteln—I have begged your brother (Thomas Harley?) not only to cause my humble request to be placed before the Queen, but also to be my advocate and support with you. You know without my having need to write it that I have a little pension from her Majesty, which being eight quarters in arrear I suffer greatly from the delay. I know, my Lord, that you have not the time to read my complaints, that is why I will beg you only in two words to have pity on a person of my condition. If this does not depend absolutely upon you, I pray you to speak a little word in my favour to her Majesty.

French.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, October 3. Newcastle—Mr. Milton, in his "Paradise Lost," in the th *(sic)* book (it is I think), brings in Adam listening with wonder and astonishment at the account the Angel gives him of the great and strange things which shall happen in the world, and of the attempts Satan shall make to ruin and delude his posterity. Comparing those great things with these small I could not but think of that description, when I found the poor country people here wondering and astonished when they look back into the notions and falsities they had been possessed with, and find that it was all delusion and a ridiculous cheat put upon them by a party.

How did an honest country minister stand amazed, when I would not agree that my Lord Wharton was a most pious devout Christian. "Sure I have lived in a wood," said a very sensible and considerable man at Gainsborough, when he heard that the late Junto had ever pushed at the Lord Treasurer Godolphin and the Duke of Marlborough; and said all the wicked things of them that have been said since, and that they joined with Jacobites to throw them out. If I ventured to say the Queen was not a Jacobite or that the ministry were Protestants, that the Pretender was not just coming ashore and the like, 'tis hardly possible to tell your Lordship how the people listen with a kind of amazement, which testifies (1) how glad they are to hear it is so, and (2) how they wonder at the delusions they have been under before.

I am now reached to Newcastle, where (except Lynn) I find the possessions I have hinted at, the most riveted of any place I have been at, and principally occasioned by two dissenting ministers, who have been at London and conversed at the Amsterdam and Hamlin's Coffee Houses, and who came down with such a freight of the ridiculous things mentioned in my last that I confess I am amazed to see good men satisfy themselves in drinking in such delusions, and spreading them among others.

There are besides these, innumerable stories spread among the common people in prejudice of the Queen and of the present management, as to the peace; and particularly that the Queen will have the Dutch give up their barrier in Flanders, that the French are to carry on their trade to the South Seas, and the like, and though the nature and the public accounts of things plainly contradict this, yet it is hard to open their eyes. The Jacobite party, on the other hand, behave with so much imprudent assurance, that terrifies the poor people with the apprehensions of the Pretender, and though they ought to see that the Queen and the Ministry are the only security they have left against the Jacobite faction, yet the other party blindly persuade them that the Queen and Ministry are their enemies, and that their only danger is where their safety indeed can only be.

I'll trouble your Lordship no more with these follies; my stay among them is so small as cannot go far in turning such a stream, but I endeavour to undeceive the most reasonable and moderate, and leave them to work upon the rest.

The great floods have hindered my travelling for some time, the like rains, especially on the Border, having not been known a long time. God direct your Lordship to heal the breaches made among us by a wretched party, who, however they rage against your person, have nothing to hope for, but from your wisdom and prudence, and who like children must be saved against the struggles of their own passions. Surely if your Lordship is once made the instrument to save them from their fears, and from the Pretender, and to secure their religion and liberties, as I hope, even their deliverance must be a burden, it will load them with so many blushes, and self-reproaches at what is past.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Cl. Guilot, Newcastle, Oct. 3, 1712."

Alexander Cunningham to the Lord Treasurer.

1712, October 3. Edinburgh—Having written formerly to your Lordship from Rome, I now presume to give your Lordship this trouble from the *Ultima Thule*. The Dunkirk Ravells as they call it, prevails

everywhere, but kills nobody, so is *sine clude victor*. I shook myself free of it in two days, and arrived here eight days ago. The commission of the Kirk has done nothing, therefore, my Lord, they have done no ill, which their enemies wait for. The Episcopalian clergy will take the abjuration if the others refuse it in any number, but will not open their pack to sell no goods. Most of the Presbyterians will take it, others cannot, others dare not; but take it or no they are to take care not to revile one another, but I doubt if they can be kept from it. When they ask me if I'm Presbyterian I tell 'em though I have a warm side for 'em, I will not burn. The Episcopalians ask me to come to their meetings, where I shall hear the English service, but that is no new thing to me, and I must hear it shortly whether I will or not, so crave to be excused. Being a little new-fangle I had almost on the road have gone to a Cameronian meeting, but the rain hindered me, and was afraid they had stole my horse. These people expect pensions as well as the Highland Clans, religion and the high duties on salt, etc., give 'em here a melancholy view of the times. The other day we were addressed in a sermon, when persecuted in one city to fly into another. It pleased me to hear travelling commended from the pulpit, be it for persecution or pleasure, but I tell 'em they will do as well to stay at home. Some will take the oaths with a preamble which they say is no interpretation, but the Episcopal men say they will do it with a mental reservation. I own that is the safest, but the plain English way methinks is most advisable. I cannot conceal from your Lordship the joy I have in procuring here some pieces of Tully, which I could not get in all Italy, they just complete me a rare set. I give Divinity books in exchange, for which I believe I must have recourse to Michaell as soon as I come to town. In short, I think Scotland happier than ever I knew it, it being now free of all trappings of government.

LORD LEXINGTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, [September 24-]October 4, N.S. St. Sebastian—I believe your Lordship will be surprised to hear I am arrived here so soon. I had the good luck to make my passage in five days, and it was as agreeable as short; I cannot express the joy these people are in for my arrival, nor the demonstrations they give of their respect for the Queen, of which I have written a long account to my Lord Dartmouth. I must tell your Lordship likewise that they are extremely tired of their masters the French, and that the principal of them, the Governor-General not excepted, though in private, have told me that they hope the Queen has sent me to take them out of slavery, that they are no longer able to bear the hardships the French lay upon them, and that all their hopes are in the Queen; which makes me hope I shall find little obstacle from the Spaniards in the negociation I go about; I hope your Lordship will forgive this trouble and give me leave now and then to acquaint you with what passes.

E[RASMUS] LEWIS to [THOMAS] HARE, Under-Secretary.

1712, October 6. Windsor Castle—When I laid before my Lord the instruments you left with me on Wednesday last, his Lordship made some difficulty to present them to the Queen because my Lord Bolingbroke had not given him the least intimation that any papers were to

be recommended to him from your office; however, since you said they required dispatch, his Lordship procured her Majesty's hand to them, and they were returned you by the first oppotunity.

Yesterday I put into my Lord's hands the other parcel enclosed in yours of the fourth, which, by his Lordship's order, I now send you back unsigned, his Lordship being persuaded it is not my Lord Bolingbroke's desire that he should concern himself in the business of his office, since he has taken other methods for laying his foreign letters before her Majesty.

The Earl of Orrery to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, October 7—I was unwilling to trouble your Lordship during your indisposition, but now I think it incumbent upon me to let you know that I write to my Lord Bolingbroke some days ago and made a proposal to him in relation to myself, which I suppose he will take the first opportunity of communicating to you, and which I hope you will come to some immediate determination upon, that I may not for the future be so importunate a suitor to you as I have been of late, nor so useless a servant to the Queen. 'Tis very grievous to me to be forced to be troublesome in this manner, for I am always more concerned to ask for anything, even though it be my due, than I am pleased to receive it; but now after several months' vain expectation of being paid and settled I really find myself under an absolute necessity to extricate myself one way or other out of these disagreeable as well as inconvenient circumstances.

I will not take upon me to judge of what use I can now be at Brussels; I am willing enough to go, if I am made easy here, and it be thought I can be serviceable there for some little time. But to give your Lordship some light into the present dispositions there, I must tell you that I doubt by my long absence some people there have been encouraged to encroach very much upon that authority which the Queen, in conjunction with the States, has always exercised since the submission of the country; 'tis certain these gentlemen have given several instances lately of their intentions to wrest the power out of those hands where it has been so long lodged, and where I think it ought to remain for the Queen's honour and the advantage of the nation till the country is given up in form. Not to trouble you with too long a detail upon this subject give me leave only to inform you that they have taken upon them to dispose of a regiment of that country without the intervention either of the Queen or States, a power that was not only never allowed them, but never pretended to by them before. They have lately passed a resolution there too not only to pay me no longer the usual allowance which has been constantly given to the Queen's Minister there for his house and equipage, but have refused to pay even what is due to this time, which outrageous proceeding is a great affront I think to the Queen, and affects me very sensibly by leaving upon me unexpectedly a considerable debt, which must increase every day till I dispose of my house and equipage there. By this you may see how necessary it is that some resolution about my going should be taken without delay, and upon the whole I think you cannot but be sensible that, if the state of the public revenue and affairs will not allow me to receive punctually the appointments of the place I have, and since that is very near expiring of course, to be established in the other before I go, there is nothing left for me to do

but to retire, that my affairs may not be irretrievably disordered, that my reputation may not suffer, and that you and the rest of my friends may not be so frequently disquieted with my solicitations.

LORD LANSDOWNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, October 8—The affair of Truro, as I think, will be over to-morrow. I engaged my honour to V[incent?] that I would be answerable for what might be necessary. This post has brought me an account of several elections where I am personally concerned. I have carried my point everywhere. Some few "squobbles" there will be in other places where they have double mayors. Sir R. Vyvyan writes that since the death of Lord Godolphin instead of cooling they rather double their efforts.

Jack Trevanion is highly discontented that his expectations have not been answered. He is coming up to serve upon my jury for the Cornish trial, which is appointed for the 6th of November. I wish you could find some way to put him in good humour before he leaves the country.

H. [COMPTON], BISHOP OF LONDON, to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1712, October 8—The world believes me to be on the mending hand, and I do not undeceive them in that particular, because if it were spring I were in all likelihood in a fair way of recovery. But [as] it is my case is dangerous, and I must change my address from desiring a pension to beg a charity, if ever I deserved anything at her Majesty's hands. The surprise of my indisposition has plunged me in such difficulties that no man but myself knows, nor have I yet discovered it to any but yourself, as my only friend that can help me. In short, I want three thousand pounds immediately to prevent the utmost shame. And therefore if I could have it as secret service by bank bills or otherwise, it would mightily secure my reputation and infinitely increase the obligation.

Postscript:—If you have any pity for me that you let your servant answer him *(sic)* from you, aye and when, for no person breathing knows aught but yourself.

H. VINCENT, Junior, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, October 11—In obedience to your Lordship's commands I here present you with an account of the most material occurrences at Truro since my being in the country; and as that relating to bribery is the most remarkable I shall beg leave to begin with it. Cha. Herle, whom your Lordship lately favoured with a commission, was told his commission was only a sham that would be attended with no pay, but if he would vote for Mr. Boscawen he should immediately have 600*l.* to buy him a commission in a standing regiment and two hundred guineas to equip him, with promises of future favours when the Whigs came uppermost, which was to be very soon, the present Ministry being a parcel of beggarly worthless fellows, whom the Queen was weary of and would discard within three months, but all that was said could not prevail with him to alter his resolution of continuing firm as before. Hickman, who was thought to be a lover of money, was three times attacked by Mr. Boscawen in person the day before the election of

Mayor, the last time late at night, when he told him if he would engage in his interest, he should have 1,000*l.* on the spot, and this too backed by entreaties in the meanest manner, saying:—pray Mr. Hickman, for God's sake, sir, if you don't vote for me I shall be undone, my interest will be totally lost. Hickman's reply was that if he expected his vote was to preserve [him] he would be mistaken, for he could not nor would not be for him. The Mayor was taken to the tavern and kept till morning, and then told if he would come over to Mr. Boscawen he should have 1,200*l.* instantly carried to his house, and it being then a private time nobody could know of it; but he rejected their proposals with contempt, saying he would not sell his principles for money, and that he had heard Mr. Boscawen had called him rogue behind his back, but was resolved he should never make him one. Watt Jones, another magistrate, was the night before and the morning of the election tempted with a still larger bait, being to have all his debts paid, 500*l.* ready money and 100*l.* a year for three lives, but this [had] no more influence on him than any of the others. Sam Moyle, whom your Lordship had heard me mention to be so poor that we were forced to take him into our house and maintain out of our own pockets, was offered 1,000*l.* as portion for his daughter, and another for himself, was so honest, though his daughter came crying about him to accept the proposal, to return an answer by letter that if they would give him 10,000*l.* he would not leave his friends, but would rather die in a jail than touch their money. Notwithstanding they have been balked in all these endeavours, they have not yet given over, for this very afternoon Pagett's wife, in company with one of Foott's daughters, attacked Slade's wife, who is in child-bed, with great temptations, yet to come into Boscawen's interest. I shall make no reflections on these proceedings, but only say if the like be practised in other places it will behove the Attorney-General to hasten his prosecution for the two and a half per cent., or I doubt the money will be expended before the cause is determined.

I believe I have now tired your Lordship with a tedious relation of this most notorious bribery, so shall proceed no further than to tell your Lordship the old Mayor continues and that I am, etc.

Postscript:—I am almost continually with the people, spiriting them up, and assure them of support and countenance from your Lordship and the Ministry, and have particularly pawned my honour for the performance of the promises your Lordship made at my coming out of London, which makes me pray haste or I shall be thought to deceive them and they turn upon us. My father presents his most humble services to your Lordship, and hopes to kiss your hands Tuesday fortnight.

[Erasmus Lewis to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, October 13. Windsor Castle—I have been this morning with my Lord D[artmouth], who tells me Lord B[olingbroke] treated him last night on two or three occasions in so rough a manner that he believes it will be impossible for you to find any expedient to keep them together.

[The Same to the Same.]

[1712, October 14,] Tuesday. Windsor—I delivered your letter to Lord Dartmouth this morning. He conceives it impossible for him to live with Lord B[olingbroke], and as impossible for you to be without

him during the negotiation. My Lord Dartmouth is therefore free and willing to retire, and says you may depend upon his readiness to serve you, as much as if he continued in employment.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, October [14-]25, N.S. Utrecht—The party in England it seems having heard of the States' resolutions to come into the Queen's measures for the obtaining of peace, have not only been very industrious themselves, but their emissaries are extremely busy in spreading abroad their malicious inventions, first of the Queen's death, then of an outcast between your Lordship and my Lord Bolingbroke, on which his Lordship had retired to the country, and also my Lord Poulett. The several reasons which were alleged for the difference between your Lordships I mention with greater freedom because they were very much to your advantage, and it would now seem that their spleen is more bent to reproach my Lord Bolingbroke. The chief one was that my Lord Bolingbroke had made several advances in France in favour of the Pretender, for which your Lordship had charged him with going beyond his instructions; that you having now by your kinsman reconciled matters with the House of Hanover, had declared your aversion to the Pretender; and that my Lord Bolingbroke had let the French gain on him by their fine words, in prejudice of the commerce also, which your Lordship having valued yourself so much upon, had occasioned very high words.

All these stories having come to Amsterdam last week, confirmed by several of their correspondents from London and the Hague, while Mr. Buys and Vander Dussen. were both there, as I am informed Buys was very melancholy, but the other should have expressed himself in these words:—Let us but gain time and matters will fall out more and more to our advantage. I told Mr. Buys this, who said that he was indeed struck with the news because the person who wrote it from the Hague ought to have been better informed before he wrote what he did, and as to Vander Dussen's expressing himself in that manner, that he believed he was drunk if he did. I answered that if he was drunk and said so, that I believed he did not then dissemble, and if his sentiments were such as his expressions, the Queen would have some reason to suspect the sincerity of the States' last resolutions; but he was firmly convinced of their sincerity, and told me a passage to convince me of the sincerity of Amsterdam, which I did not at all doubt of, having heard the same thing from "Hebreus Master" *(sic)*, a person of worth who Mr. Thomas Harley will explain to your Lordship because I may have occasion to mention him to your Lordship after this if my letters do not prove too troublesome.

Vander Dussen and Buys came both to Amsterdam immediately after my Lord Strafford set out from the Hague to go for England, Vander Dussen being the Pensionary Heynsius' kinsman and favourite, and brother-in-law to Burgomaster Pancras, who is son-in-law to Corver who governs Amsterdam. He had a conference with the four governing Burgomasters, where in the Grand Pensionary's name he gave an account of what had passed in the last conference which my Lord Strafford had with the Grand Pensionary, and that the Grand Pensionary and others had now only two considerations to lay before them, which if they could get over it was plain we could have peace, and might have peace. The one was whether it was not very much to be suspected that the present ministry in England were for having the

Pretender succeed the Queen, whose life was very precarious, and in all appearance would be very short, and whether we ought not to have the Emperor's full consent, and with his and all the Princes of the Empire's full satisfaction and friendship we ought to make the peace and not otherwise, considering they were the only allies we could depend upon; and that by the situation of the Empire and this country they ought to be in an entire and inseparable friendship. Old Burgomaster Corver's answer was that as to the present ministry of England's intentions that the Pretender should succeed the Queen, he and he believed all his brethren looked on that as a scandalous aspersion of the adverse party, to blacken the Ministry, and that they did not believe one word of it, being well informed that the Queen and her Ministry were all Protestants; and that he was for making preferable friendship with their Protestant allies, and their rich allies, both which lived in England, and that he did not doubt but that the Queen (whom he hoped God would long preserve) and this State would be able when they should have occasion to purchase the friendship and assistance of the Emperor and the Empire at the rate they had cost them these ten years past. Burgomaster de Haas, who is the next in power, having always shown his inclination for peace, and having been the chief and first instrument of the passports being granted was very glad on this occasion that the old gentleman left him so little to say, and only added that he was informed that the Queen desired a hearty concurrence of the States, and that all equivocations should be laid aside, which he hoped the States Ministers for the future would answer her Majesty's expectation in, and then they declared together that the resolution of Amsterdam is, not to equip any new squadron for the States, that one under the Baron Van Gent, who was along with Peterson, being safe returned, that they would not consent to any capitation, *dixième* on the rents of houses, etc., or any other new tax, unless the Queen rejected their proposals.

Accordingly, the Silesia loan for the Emperor is at a full stop, no more being subscribed of any moment than the 40,000*l.* which came from England to Mr. Clifford; and the lottery of the States General is not above half full, neither will it fill in haste if at all.

Mr. Buys owns now some mistakes he was in concerning England, and blames the proceedings of the first day of the last session in the House of Lords, where he happened to hear the debates, and believed from that, that the Queen and her Ministry would give them any terms to take the declaration of King Philip's continuing on the throne of Spain on them. He now very much laments the differences and jealousies which are risen between the two nations, and heartily wishes they may be removed, and that he will endeavour as much as in his power. He was at "Hebreus Masters" where I was sent for, and their whole discourse was what good offices your Lordship could now do to this State, how good and great a name you could acquire to yourself by exerting yourself to gain for them what they have desired, wishing they might have it to say that they owed Condé to you, placing Tournay as out of doubt in their barrier, as I really hope it is, and indeed without Condé Brabant is but slenderly covered. This new patent of the French King's to Mons. Crosatt for the trade of New Mexico, of which Renard has sent your Lordship a copy, gives much jealousy and I am extremely out in my weak politics if this be well timed of the French Court to give out such a patent now. Buys says they will join heartily with the Queen to prevent the French trading to the South Sea in time of peace.

The present reason of my being here is on a letter which my Lord Privy Seal did me the honour to write me, that he was soon to enter into conferences with the Dutch on the subject of the four species, which the French pretend to except out of the tariff of 1664, and also with the French on the same subject; and to be the better prepared his Excellency would have some questions to ask me, but on my arrival I found his Lordship taken with a violent bleeding, which returned yesterday with feverishness, which gave some apprehension, but last night his Lordship rested well, and has lain quiet all this day without any bleeding, so that we hope the danger is over.

Prince Eugene is come to the Hague, he is for a cessation in Catalonia, and recruiting here, but they tell him the cessation must be general in a short time. When he has been some days longer at the Hague, I shall be able to tell your Lordship some more of his projects, but he finds cold comfort hitherto. We are all glad to hear of my Lord Strafford's safe arrival, hoping his Excellency will return quickly with good success. Mr. Buys thinks now that my Lord is reconciled to him, but Vander Dussen is his Lordship's favourite, so that your Lordship will be pleased not to mention your author if you think fit to tell the story of his Amsterdam negotiations to my Lord, whom the Dutch begin to have a good opinion of and with very good reason.

Lord Lexington to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, October [17-]28, N.S. Madrid—I have by this courier sent my Lord Dartmouth an account of what I have done, which is as far as I can bring these ministers, at this time. I hope by the next to send you the renunciation itself, which I flatter myself you will find as full and ample as can be desired. If I have erred in the other points I beg you to believe that I could obtain no more, but it still remains entire for your Lordships to agree with the Duke de Monte Leon, who has full powers so to do, or to order me to insist upon what you think necessary, but I think the main points are done and agreed to, without obliging me to anything about taking the character, till I have her Majesty's approbation of what I have done. I sent your Lordship's letter to the Princess Des Ursins last post, who is now at the Bath of Barrege, but will be here the middle of next month, new style; I want her extremely, for none of the ministers speak French but Monsieur de Bedman, and he is very stiff in his opinions, and not to be easily moved, nor will they write to me but in Spanish, so that I have a hard time of it. I beg your Lordship to let me know how you approve of what I have done, and to correct me if I have done amiss, and to send me orders what I must insist upon.

Nicho[las] Courtney to Lord Lansdowne.

1712, October 18—Relative to his succeeding "Sir James of the Peak" in the place of "Judicatory," which he had expected two years ago, had been publicly congratulated upon by Lord Trevor and other judges, and the name of Sir James had been fastened on him in jest, but not the office. Is now stepping into the 84th year of his age, which cannot be many steps from the grave. If it may be done before he dies, it will rescue him from "ridiculousness."

A[RTHUR] MAYNWARING to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, October 18. St. Albans—I have received here the honour of your Lordship's letter, and have shown it to the gentleman you mention*. He is very glad to hear your Lordship is so well recovered of your late illness as to be abroad; and he desires to have only his own name, and his servants', inserted in the pass. He will be in London on Monday next, and begs he may have the favour of speaking to your Lordship as soon as it is easy and convenient to you. He is very much obliged to your Lordship for your continued kindness to him, of which he has commanded me to assure you that he will retain a lasting sense. I shall be also in London the same day, and always ready to receive your commands.

ALEXANDER ARESKINE, Lord Lyon, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, October 20. Cambo—At the university of St. Andrews the second master of the new College, a professor of Divinity, is lately dead, whose place is at the Queen's disposal, and we understand, my Lord, that some of the leading men of the Kirk, Mr. Carstares, etc., have applied to get that place filled, and they are influenced by the heads of the university, who are indeed a pack of hot headed ungrateful rogues both to the Queen and your Lordship, for within these very few weeks in return for their gift of 300*l.* a year you gave them last winter, they have refused to sign an Address in very general terms thanking the Queen for the length she has brought the peace and owning their satisfaction of the good choice the Queen hath made of her Ministry, and though their Chancellor, the Duke of Atholl, had signed it, and sent it to them, all the heads of the Colleges refused it, and only one Mr. Scrymzour and two other Professors of Philosophy and the Professor of Mathematics signed it. The last time this second Master's place was to be disposed of the moderate Presbyterian party were all earnest to have this Mr. Scrymzour preferred to that post, but the violent party was his enemy, and so he lost it, and I hope his behaviour in this Address will give him a good title to it now. I am told he is a very learned man, and which is as extraordinary among them, a very well principled man, and I daresay you will think it very necessary for the good of the Queen and country, and ease to the Ministry to have good principles instilled into our young teachers if possible, and I know no likelier way of doing it than by giving them an honest man for their master.

In my last I told you I was afraid we should lose several of our Corporations, by not having fulfilled our promises we were obliged to give before the last elections, and now the elections of all our Town Councils are over, I am heartily sorry to have to tell you we have lost several of them. I have written this post to my Lord Bolingbroke to get a presentation signed by the Queen for the Kirk of Bruntisland at the desire of all the honest people in the town; if it be not sent down very quickly, the putting in a minister there falls *jure devoluto* in the Presbytery's hands, and if that be you may be assured from me you will infallibly lose that town likewise.

* The Duke of Marlborough. *See* Coxe's *Memoirs*, chapter xix., where two of Lord Oxford's letters to the Duke relating to this matter are printed.

LORD LEXINGTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, October [20-]31, N.S. Madrid—Having given my Lord Dartmouth a full account, I will not trouble your Lordship with any more than my reason for demanding this new clause, which is, that if that is not inserted, as I hope it will be, the Dauphin, if the Duke of Savoy should die without heirs male, and this King the same, would by a new acquired right succeed to the Crown of Spain, as son to the eldest daughter of the Duke of Savoy, which I thought very proper to prevent as far as human prudence could reach, by putting as many between as was possible.

Enclosure.

My Lord Lexington demande que dans la Clausule de l'Acte de Renunciation qui regarde l'appelle de Monsieur le Duc de Savoye à la Couronne d'Espagne, on nomme, après S.A.R. et sa ligne masculine, ceux qui le suivent par leur ordre, comme ils ont été nommés touchant la succession à la Couronne de France.

[LORD HARCOURT to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, October 22—I send you the enclosed rather to confirm you in your opinion that the present set of Bishops are not immortal than in hopes that your Lordship's thoughts on this occasion should agree with the late Lord President's and Duke of Ormond's, who promised their interest to Dr. Delaune when such a vacancy should happen.

Give me leave to congratulate your Lordship on your new accession of honour [the Knighthood of the Garter]. You have not any friend or servant who wishes your prosperity more heartily than I do, and, were my power equal to my inclination, none should so much contribute to it.

Enclosure.

An application from W. Delaune, dated St. John's [Oxford], Oct. 27, for a vacant preferment in Ireland.

J. DAWSON to [EDWARD] SOUTHWELL.

1712, October 22. [Dublin]—The only subject of this town is the behaviour and courage of our present Lord Mayor, who daily snubs and takes down our Recorder; one instance among many I must send you to show how matters go here. When the Lord Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen were at dinner, the Recorder prefacing his health with a mighty encomium of the services of Mr. Allen Broderick in Parliament to this kingdom, and of his great worth and integrity, named his health, upon which the Lord Mayor said as for his services in Parliament he was not a witness of them, not being a member, but as for his integrity and honesty he believed he did not deserve that character, for that he had wronged his brother of above 400*l.*, and till he had done him justice he should never have that opinion of him.

This reply fired the Recorder and put him in a passion, upon which the Lord Mayor told him he was a servant of the city, and while he had the honour of being magistrate he expected the Recorder would pay that respect to him as was due, and took that occasion to tell him and his brethren the Aldermen that he had observed for several years it had been a custom at the Lord Mayor's table to drink healths that were

very unbecoming and disrespectful to her Majesty and her Ministry, and that while he was Lord Mayor none such should be drunk at his table This spirit of his Lordship confounded all, and they find instead of a mild, quiet, governable man, which they thought him to be, he will not be led by them. Ever since that bout the Recorder has absented himself from the Lord Mayor's table, and his Lordship intends to rebuke [him] for it, and require his attendance. There are a great many instances more, but I thought this sufficient to let you know what's adoing, and I assure you the Lord Mayor's behaviour has raised a mighty spirit in the city.

Copy.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, October 27. Dunkeld—Be pleased to receive an address to the Queen from the noblemen, barons, and freeholders of the shire of Perth, which being one of the largest shires in Scotland has taken a long time in going about to be signed, but I was desirous it should have the more subscriptions, because your Lordship will see there are in it some particular expressions of loyalty and duty to her Majesty.

Enclosed is a letter to my son Tullibardine who, if you think fit, should present the address to the Queen.

William Bromley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, October 27. Baginton—I heartily congratulate your Lordship's increase of honours.

Dr. Charlett writes me that he has been seventeen years a chaplain at Court at no small expense, that neither he nor any of the heads of Colleges in that service have been taken notice of, which is discouraging to them and to the University, and exposes them to some contempt, and that there are three prebends vacant, the meanest of which would be acceptable to him.

The faction are busy in reporting the Queen to be in a very ill state of health. I hope this is only their malice, and that she will many years enjoy the fruits of that blessing she is giving to her people.

The Duke of Argyll to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1712, end of October.] Tholen—The ill fortune I have had in the roads and weather, with the badness and scarcity of post horses, are the reasons of my coming to this place no sooner than last night, from whence I propose to set out the moment wind and weather will permit me.

I am very sorry that I must tell your Lordship I find our troops in Catalonia and Minorca are in the same scarcity of money as when I left them. I can hear nothing of the sums you told me you had lately remitted for that service, nor was there any news of them when these ships that are here came from Spain, and to make this misfortune yet greater it seems Mr. Hammond has in obedience to a minute, which he pretends to have received from the Treasury without either the order, approbation or so much as the knowledge of the Commander-in-Chief, paid about twenty thousand pounds to the Portuguese, so that the Queen's troops are reduced to the greatest misery imaginable.

This you, I am sure, will do me the justice to own I did all I could to prevent by my frequent applications to you, both in relation to the payments and paymaster. I most heartily wish the apprehensions I then had of a delay in those matters had proved groundless. I hope you will now lose no time in supplying this service whilst there is yet a possibility of retrieving the misfortune of it.

I am, among other matters of less consequence, extremely surprised to hear that the officers, sergeants, and drums of the three regiments that I reduced by her Majesty's order before I left Spain, and which by her Majesty's directions were to be sent home, notwithstanding the proper application made by me to the Admiral for that purpose, are still starving in Catalonia; I think it may literally be called so when many of the officers have been actually reduced to the necessity of begging to receive seamen's provisions on board the Queen's ships.

I would not, my Lord, by this be misunderstood to insinuate that the Admiral has been to blame, whom I have always observed to be very ready to do everything that was desired of him for her Majesty's service, but it seems after he had actually in compliance with my desire put these people on board in order to send them home, he received positive orders to send away none of the ships, which put it out of his power to perform that service. All that I think can be now done is, if he has received the order, which you know I was told was sent him, to transport and victual during their voyage all such of her Majesty's subjects as I should desire of him to send to England, to incorporate the sergeants and drums in the regiments that are to remain in Minorca, and to give a month's pay to the officers when they are put on board, which I shall direct Mr. Hammond to state to the accounts of the several regiments they belong to.

It is with great pain that I have troubled you so long upon so melancholy a subject, but I hope you will have the goodness to think that my duty absolutely required my saying what I have done, in regard to the trust that is reposed in me by her Majesty.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"R[eceived] Wednesday, Nov. 5., from Capt. Campbell, who arrived from Tholen in nine days."

Lord Lansdowne to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, October 31—I promised Mr. Vincent his 100*l.* for the Mayor of Truro to-morrow morning. I have so vast an expense upon me in the country for the Queen's service, and in town with my suits and trials, that I must lay my circumstances freely before you. I have so far got a victory yesterday that I am coming to a quick decision in the House of Lords.

Viscount Bolingbroke to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1712, October?] Wednesday—I had waited on your Lordship this morning, but that an excessive cold made me a little feverish and confined me to my bed till now. Besides Mr. Prior's letter to yourself I send your Lordship his despatch to me, together with a few lines from Monsieur de Torcy. I beg to have these again by six o'clock, because I shall at that hour wait on the Queen.

Your Lordship will observe we are near a conclusion with France. Our clear instruction to the Duke of Shrewsbury, vigorously executed, pins the basket; but we must know what Gylligan's success is before

we conclude, and I am very sure—forgive the confident air I speak with—that Monteleon might be satisfied in half an hour, and brought not only to represent the necessity of finishing with Gylligan, but also the necessity of breaking the contract made with Jourdain by the Comte de Bergheyck, for a permission for six ships to pay 360,000 crowns, and go to the South Sea. We brought him so far yesterday, as to agree that either this ought to be done, or the same liberty be granted to us.

Another proposition was started: to lend Philip the same sum of 360,000 crowns, provided he breaks the bargain made with the French, and to repay ourselves by sinking so much of what becomes due to Philip on account of the Assiento.

I offer these hints to your Lordship's consideration, and I presume to add that though I may perhaps be generally in too great haste, yet it is impossible to be so upon this occasion.

I do not send the papers enclosed in Prior's letter; they are too voluminous. I am and ever will be entirely your Lordship's.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, October. Newcastle—Since my last I have been out of the reach of any post road, which has hindered my writing to your Lordship. I am now returned from a land of distraction and confusion, and indeed am at a loss how to describe it to you. The best thing I can say of it is that I hope it is an uneasiness that will not immediately give the Government any disturbance, I say immediately only because I fear it will hereafter.

I find in the West and South part many of the ministers would take the oath, but the people are so enraged at them that they dare not, and this puts the poor men to an inextricable difficulty, so that they are like to be martyrs for a principle which they do not hold. I persuaded some of them to qualify privately and continue preaching as if they had not qualified.

In Edinburgh there are only four ministers who will refuse, these are, Mr. Webster of the Tolbooth Kirk, Mr. Flint of the Old Kirk, Mr. Hart of the Grey Friars, and Mr. Miller, an Englishman, of Lady Yester's Kirk. Mr. Hart, I am in hopes, will comply. I find the Squadroni exceeding busy in prompting everything which appears malcontent, and they seem pleased at the breach this makes, as they think it prepares the minds of the people for something worse; and I cannot say they endeavour to reconcile the people to the oath, but rather the contrary, though they take it themselves.

There is a manifest distrust and division between those they call the last Court Whigs and the Squadroni, and it were to be wished some measures were thought on to keep them from joining, and I mention it the rather because I see it is so easy to be done, viz.: by taking off but one man, whom your Lordship may have with a word. I refer the rest till I have the honour to attend you. It is for me only to represent dangers to you, not to presume to prescribe remedies, and therefore I do not descend to any methods to be taken with those poor, distressed people. If they merit anything it is the Government's pity, but I fear they shall some time or other put themselves out of the way of her Majesty's clemency. They are entirely naked and defenceless, and yet so provoking, that I see not how the Government can long preserve its authority without some method of restraint upon them.

I am alarmed at my coming into the conversible part of the world again with an account of your indisposition; God preserve a life on which so much of the nation's safety depends! your Lordship might have the satisfaction here of seeing those people who are poisoned with prejudices from the city tremble at the thought of that person being removed whom they know not how to value when alive; they acknowledge that when they look beyond you they see nothing but confusion, yet it is not among their mercies to see the hand that does them good.

I struggle in my mean station with this delusion, but in some places with more success than in others.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—" Newcastle, R[eceived] Nov. 10, 1712."

JOHN ANSTIS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, October—Sends a few notes about the "Order of Knighthood under Sovereign Queens;" and adds some remarks on the matters at issue between himself, Sir Henry St. George, and Mr. [John] Vanbrugh.

EARL ILAY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, November 1—I had the honour to acquaint you last week of an address I had received from the Synod of Glasgow, and you were pleased to give me hopes I should receive your commands upon that subject, when you returned from Windsor. I have since received another of the same nature from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, but not having as yet the honour to hear from you I cannot tell what answer to return to the Synods, or in what manner to proceed here; whether that whole affair is of such consequence as to merit anyway your consideration I must submit to you, but I cannot avoid sending some answer or other by this post, having delayed it already a week.

Give me leave, since I don't know whether I shall have any other opportunity, to beg that those poor people may not suffer for having been so unfortunate as to put their affairs in my hands. I always was proud of having some interest in my own country, and in particular with those who are most zealous for the Protestant Succession. I think I was no less ambitious of making it operate for your service at a time when others, who since have claimed great merit, either would not, or durst not, join with me in it; when my brother and I professed ourselves openly servants to those whom others were unwilling to own any acquaintance with, till you and your friends had prevailed. We were not ignorant at that time that in order to serve you effectually, it was necessary for us to run a risk of losing any little credit or interest our family had at home, and any small personal influence we hoped to have gained; we were to oppose several families, and many persons of great distinction whom we were in friendship with, and to support others differing with us entirely in principles and having the utmost hatred to our persons; we were farther to join with and promote the interest of families, who perhaps are not yet satiated after having twice deprived us of our bread, with the shedding our blood. We were yet farther for some time to sacrifice in the opinions of many, our reputations and our honour; we were to be branded with the odious character of having forsook our principles and abandoned the interests of the Protestant Succession, without so much as mitigating the rage and malice which the enemies to it have preserved against us now to the third generation. This was our case, this was the prospect which

presented itself to us when we first made offers of our little support to you and your friends, and though we knew very well that our interest, our reputation, and possibly our lives and fortunes, would depend upon your protection against those whom we were for your sake to serve, yet by our actions we showed the world how secure we thought ourselves in the hopes of it.

I thought it necessary to trouble you with all this to introduce my saying that I have not been at all surprised at the uninterrupted attempts ever since the change of the Ministry to make me forfeit your favour. I confess I had for some time a little sort of malicious pleasure to see them go on with so little success, but some months are now past since that satisfaction has ceased. I have had the mortification to see my enemies prevail. I was very well apprized of the particular stories they had framed against me, and at last of their success. I have been represented as one lying behind the curtain doing all the mischief I could and fomenting all the bad humours I found in any of my friends, particularly irritating my brother upon all occasions against the Ministry, that I was utterly dissatisfied, and had laid down methods to join with your enemies, and in order to it had met frequently with those Lords who are called the Junto.

The information I could have received (though from hands too good) would have made me apprehend that upon mere suggestions without any inquiry or any notice, I should be judged guilty and privately disgraced, but when I reflect upon the scene which would open in such a case, and see it approaching, if not present, pardon the mistake of a weak servant of yours, who feeling the effect, attempts in vain to disbelieve the cause. Had I been so accused and so condemned, the natural consequence of it would have been a full stop to any pretensions of favour which I should have had before any reason to hope for, and should have been discountenanced from having any credit or interest by virtue of my office, everything that I might have hoped to have been advised with in put into other hands, other channels; no credit nor countenance would have been given to any recommendation I should presume to offer, and the Royal favour would be entirely denied to all those who by my means had hoped for it. All those little instruments of the meaner parts of government, who serve by saying what they are bid in coffee houses, etc., would have given it out that I was plotting against the Ministry, and that I was no longer to have any interest at Court; they would further have boasted how little interest my brother had in the Highlands since some of the gentlemen there received pensions. The Ministry would have by degrees let me drop out of their acquaintance as well as their favour, and every one who had any business with me would have been preferred to me, and had I been designed and told I was to be honoured with any trust, it would have been concluded, and it would have been told that I was a person not fitting to be entrusted with it. If all these symptoms and some more have not appeared, if I, while I am awake and (as some think) in my senses, fancy and imagine it only, I cannot tell really whether folly in that case would not make me as incapable of your favour, as treachery, in the other.

My Lord, the winter approaches, and whatever may be my case in all this I shall act just as I did when you seemed to say I served you; but the next year necessarily opens a scene of business where there is no groping in the dark, and if I must continue to be thus unhappy I beg that you will in humanity beforehand let me know it that I may prepare for that retirement I often thought of, when the late change

of the Ministry was in suspense, and have always resolved in case my enemies should succeed, whether those whose principles compel them to be so, or those little people whose trade would be at end, if I had any countenance.

Give me leave to prophesy that in a little time some of both sorts will speak no better of you to others, than possibly they have lately to you of some of your friends.

To return to the matter of the Church of Scotland, if they have dissevered themselves by sending their Addresses to me, I believe I can answer for having so much credit with them as to persuade them to apply by any person your Lordship shall please to command me.

If so long a letter should rather, from the trouble it gives you, increase than diminish the censures which lie upon me, pardon the natural effects of innocence (in my own opinion) and self-preservation.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"E. Ilay, Nov. 1, 1712. I do not understand this, it having no foundation."

John Chamberlayne to [Lord Harley].

1712, November 3. Petty France, Westminster—Encloses a letter received by him from the Rev. Dr. Colbatch, dated from Cambridge, October 28, author of that excellent piece called the "Account of Portugal," on the subject of the civil and ecclesiastical history of Holland, which the Lord Treasurer ought to read, though it be a very long one.

The Duke of Somerset to the Lord Treasurer.

1712, November 8—At my coming to town for a few days to pay off some bills on the account of her Majesty's stables, according to the payments of the 15,000*l.* you are pleased to order, I did find that you had done me the favour still to continue to give me two of those most valuable books, which Mr. Rhimer (Rymer) doth with that indefatigable care deliver to the Treasury. I do beg you to continue that favour, because I will always acknowledge it if that can be now thought an equivalent for it, but if not then I hope you will forgive the present trouble in reading this letter.

Viscount Downe to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, November 10—Waiting on the Duchess of Newcastle last week, I asked her Grace if she designed to continue the two old members for Aldborough the next election. She told me she did not. I presumed then to desire her favour for Mr. Dawnay; she said she was willing to serve me, but would do nothing of that kind without your approbation. If your Lordship approves of my son I shall esteem it as a most particular favour.

Viscount Dupplin to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, November 11. Old Windsor—I find Dr. Arbuthnot is very earnest to succeed Sir Theodore Colladon as physician to Chelsea Hospital. Dr. Keith has got a great many of the Commissioners to be his friends, but if you think that he should yield to Dr. Arbuthnot

it will be best for him to do it at first. I would not have named Dr. Keith in competition with Dr. Arbuthnot, but I thought that what he has got in the Custom House is so considerable that it would have put him off desiring so small a place as this. Dr. Keith is a sincere, honest man, your daughter and I have been infinitely obliged to him, and this place is the top of his ambition.

LORD NORTH AND GREY to the LORD TREASURER.

1712, November 12—Protesting against the claim of Lord Ossulston to be made Earl of Tankerville in right of his wife the last Earl's daughter, and setting forth his own more direct descent from the Lord Tankerville created by Henry V.

DR. RALPH BLOMER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, November 13. Ormond Street—I do myself the honour to present these two sermons to your Lordship. It is perhaps too late to renew my application upon the affair of St. Andrew's, Holborn. I will only beg leave to tell you that this is the first time that a presentation has been set aside by the Crown, when the prerogative has been exercised in a Commendam for three years. Your Lordship cannot wonder if an interest of 500*l.* per annum is not easily parted with. But, however grievous this disappointment is to me and my family, you should not be troubled with my complaints, if I did not consider you as a person of too much honour and good sense to despise a just complaint, because I believe such a hardship was never put upon any clergyman that was neither ignorant, nor profligate, nor any way unqualified for the care of such a parish; and at a time too when the Crown had three Deaneries and four Prebends to dispose of. My Lord, neither friends nor foes would wonder at this, if the present Ministry had any reason to expose Dr. Sacheverell, or to injure me.

The EARL OF RADNOR to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, November 14—I have endeavoured, though unsuccessfully, to wait on you on a private day, to congratulate you on the new honour (K.G.) her Majesty has conferred on you. The crowd is so great on your public days that I despaired of that happiness. My brother Robartes and I have a little business which we desire to discourse you upon if you can spare us a quarter of an hour.

GENERAL CHARLES ROSSE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, November 15. Edinburgh—Gives his reasons for opposing the removal of Mr. Ross of Kilrack from the sheriffdom of Ross, it being reported by gentlemen of the name of McKinzay, that he is to be superseded by some one bearing their name.

The DUKE OF HAMILTON'S DEATH.

[1712, November 21]—The information of Col. John Hamilton, who declares that when the Duke of Hamilton, Lord Mohun, and Macartney came to the place agreed on for them to fight, the Duke and Lord

Mohun had no sooner drawn their swords than Macartney drew his, as Colonel Hamilton did the same, and that Macartney immediately pushed at the Colonel, and he striking down Macartney's sword, by which he received a wound in his right leg, closed with Macartney and took his sword from him, by which time Lord Mohun was down on the ground and his Grace upon him. The Colonel, the better to help the Duke up, flung both swords on the ground, and he helping his Grace to recover with his Grace's back to his face; his head being to the right of the Duke's head, Macartney came with a sword in his hand, and gave a thrust into the Duke's left breast, which he believes was his mortal wound, the Duke at the same time saying, I am wounded, and whilst the said Colonel Hamilton was helping him Macartney escaped.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"R[eceived] on Friday morning, Nov. 21, 1712, from Mr. Gawen Mason."

H[ERBERT] R[UDHALE] WESTFALING to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, November 22. Rudhale—On behalf of Dr. Ottley to succeed to the see of Hereford, vacant by the Bishop's death on the preceding Thursday. His advancement would be the most acceptable imaginable to the county, and the little regard, or rather entire neglect, of their countrymen in preferments in this diocese since Bishop Croft's time, move them the more strongly to solicit his Lordship.

[LORD HARCOURT to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712, November 24—Whether her Majesty will be pleased to order what can with decency be made by the disposition of the office of warden of the fleet to be given to Lord C., or according to the obliging hint I had last night from you provide in some other manner for him, and permit me to dispose of it, I shall be very easy, but I shall not be so if the Queen or your Lordship thinks me pressing on her goodness to me, or distrusting it. I shall always continue in her service, whilst she thinks me worthy of it, with the same entire submission to her will, with which I entered into it. You only know how far I was from making or proposing any terms of retreat for myself. I must beg leave to assure you that the profits of the Great Seal are so reduced and the necessary expense attending it so high, that without some such helps as this, I shall leave little other memorial in my family of my having been once in the great station, than the bare honour of it; and yet I entreat you I may have nothing to do in the disposing this office, if you have the least apprehension that I may thereby incur her Majesty's displeasure, or divert any intended marks of her favour towards me. The proposal of 1,000*l.* per annum to Lord Clarendon is ridiculous. I believe three or four thousand pounds would be given by a person of ability to answer and execute the office, if it might be granted for a [illegible] number of years under proper provisions and restraints, which [illegible]ve not fully considered. If you have any commands about the Speaker's office [illegible]ay be so very kind as to honour me with them. Let me beg you to remember Dr. Sacheverell.

J[OHN] URRY to LORD HARLEY.

1712, November 24—Mr. Dean of Christ Church tells me from Mr. Broxholm, your honour has found out another Tale of Chaucer's, that

never was in print. I need not tell yōu I shall be glad to see it, and hope you will favour me with a sight of it when I come to Christ Church, which will be very soon. My good Lord Weymouth setting out this week for London will tarry two or three days with his son and daughter Worsley, and the first week of December be there, and by that time I shall be at Oxford. Last week the Honourable Mrs. Thynn of Cawston sent me a MS. Chaucer, which she has lately purchased; it belonged to Mr. Long, Prebendary of Exeter Church. 'Tis all unbound and wants several leaves, and some whole Tales, but yet there are two in it that I have not met with anywhere else. The one is what passed at the inn at Canterbury, and how the Pilgrims disposed of themselves, and the Pardoner's misadventure with the Tapster of that inn. The other is the Merchant's tale as they return from Canterbury; 'tis long; I have not read it, but after it are these two lines in the same hand with the rest of the MS.

Nomen autoris presentis cronica Romæ
Et translatoris filius Ecclesiæ Thomæ.

If what you have discovered is one of these, I shall be the better enabled to put it forth from two MSS., but if it is different from these, I shall thereby enlarge my collection of Chaucer's works, and that will be some commendation to the edition I am preparing. I transcribe every line, so that I, that am not a swift penman, find I have set myself a tedious task. I am advanced a great way in the Tales, and have taken as great care of the versification as I can, being persuaded Chaucer made them exact metre, but the transcribers have much injured them. In his Troilus and Creseide he says to his book—

And for there is so great diversitie
In English and in writing of our tonge,
So pray I God, that none miswrite the
Ne the mismetre for default of tonge.

So that if I, by the help of MSS. and several printed editions can restore him to his feet again, I shall have done, though no great matter, as much as I am able to do, and that in a good measure I think I shall do.

I shall make no complaints of the difficulties I meet with in this trifling business. I shall reserve them to a paragraph in the preface, and there I'll magnify my labours and talk as big, though but a paltry editor, as if I were the very author himself. But Chaucer was a modest man, and boasting will not become me. However, you will give me leave, I hope, to mention how much I am beholden to you in procuring me that valuable MS. from my Lord Treasurer's library, and promising to get me the habits of the pilgrims, and finding out a new Tale to grace the edition, and many other favours, for all which I most humbly thank your Lordship, and with all respect kiss your hands.

[John Drummond to the Earl of Oxford.]

[November 29-]December 9, N.S. Hague—The above letter [from Lord Albemarle, copy annexed, dated November 29, N.S., asking him to come to the Hague to meet Lord Strafford on his return from England] brought me here some days ago. The business they had with me was first under the greatest secrecy to acquaint my Lord Strafford at his arrival that the province of Oberyssell had resolved to drop Count Rechteren and to choose Mons. J. Hersum in his place, who would be easy and

certainly come into the Queen's measures; and the writer of the letter pretends to have had the chief management to bring this about to shew his inclination. But by no means is my Lord Strafford to know that he had any hand in it, but I have informed my Lord Strafford of the Province's resolution, and offered to bring Mons. J. Hersum to him.

Yesterday there was a solemn deputation of the States with his Excellency, where he proposed to them the new treaty of Barrier, reading it to them, and then the further proposals he had the Queen's orders to make for the speedy conclusion of a general peace, desiring that they might come to a resolution in or about three weeks' time, for that the Queen was resolved to have the Parliament to sit the thirteenth of January, and unless they came into her Majesty's measures in due time to communicate then a general peace to her Parliament, that the Queen would certainly leave them entirely to themselves and abandon their interest, and declare her new peace. The objections the States make to my Lord's proposals are in private conversation:—first, that Condé not being obtained the barrier is broke; secondly, that the superiority or sovereignty of their barrier is to be given to the Emperor, it will hinder a due collection of the revenues, occasion many disputes between the civil and military powers, ruin the Protestant churches which were erected in some of the towns; and, thirdly, that Dendermonde, which the Grand Pensionary says Mr. Thomas Harley assured him of, is not to be garrisoned by the States, upon pretence that new tolls or customs may be laid by them on the English trade, which he says the States are willing to make England as easy and secure against as the Queen pleases, and that if ever the States should sin against the agreements that should be made for the safety of the English trade, that the Queen would easily have it in her power to punish them by reprisal or otherwise, whereas the Emperor being a despotic Prince would have less respect to the Queen's interest, and value for her Majesty's friendship, neither could the Queen so easily do herself justice on the Emperor as on them. He declared by all that is sacred that he never desired Dendermonde with any such intention, but that Amsterdam and Zealand, who for the ease of their trade, were willing to burden others, had occasioned this jealousy by their former proceedings, that he hoped the Queen had so much zeal for their safety, that considering Condé was left out of the barrier by which the French at any time could march down directly between Tournay and Brussels to Dendermonde, he hoped the Queen would have allowed them a garrison in Dendermonde, seeing the Imperialists themselves had offered them a joint garrison under an Imperial governor, and really I heard Prince Eugene say that they ought to have Dendermonde secured to their mind, for if ever the French fell down on that country if they gained Dendermonde nothing could stop them till they came to Hulst, and then Zealand would be easily invaded.

I find in general a good deal of resignation to the Queen's pleasure. If our town of Amsterdam would but be satisfied in the four species of merchandise, which the French would except out of the tariffs of 1664, which every one who knows anything of trades must be convinced are as much for the advantage of the British as of the Dutch trade, that they should not be excepted, but remain on the same foot as they were in 1664, the duties then having been high enough for them to have encouraged their own fishing and manufactures by; and if France after the solemn treaties, I may say after four, viz.: 1662, 1664, 1678, and 1697, in all which they agreed that herrings should pay no other duty nor tax than sixteen livres the last, they after the year

1697 imposed in tolls and *droits de consomption* near 160,000 guilders the last, which is near double the first cost, and the coast of Norfolk and Scotland will be as sensible of this as Holland can be, but every one is sensible that even for to obtain this of the four species and all the other objections to be removed, this State will not hazard the carrying on the war; but they think it hard fate after all the expense, and after all the success of this war, to be forced to accept of a peace without safety or any new ease or advantage of trade, for they say that by this constitution of the Spanish Netherlands whoever becomes governor of them, and being corrupted by France as others have been, may let the enemy soon into their country again, as the Duke of Bavaria did.

I have here troubled your Lordship with all their objections, but at the same time there is not one of them has said that the States ought or would carry on the war for the difference, though they will put themselves in the best condition they can till the peace be really concluded, the French arming with more vigour for an early campaign than has been seen in the hottest of the war, and if the States gave over their preparations, they believe it would not be even in the Queen's power to keep the French honest.

I am promised to-morrow by a good hand, Count Sinsendorff's opinion of what my Lord Strafford has laid before the States, and since communicated to him, for he sent for my friend this night, who is indisposed, as his correspondent at Whitehall is.

Here is great railing against poor Mat. P[rio]r by his own countrymen that he came over to oppose them, that he is a pensioner where he resides, and a great deal more, and it seems his patron has not opened his purse strings wide enough, and unless he treat his friends better after the peace he cannot subsist. He is for doing all alone, and wearies every one who has business with him by delays and ambiguous answers.

ED. STAWELL to [LORD HARLEY].

1712, December [10-]21, N.S. Gibraltar—I hope we shall leave this place in about ten days, and not without sending my Lord Treasurer a satisfactory account of it. I believe we shall show the abuses that have been committed here have not been by the engineer, as is generally thought in the fortifications, but by the governors. We have already sent my Lord Treasurer an account of a district that formerly belonged to this town when it was in the hands of the Spaniards; if this can be got with the town now, it will at least save the fuel and victualling for this place, which expense an advertisement in the Gazette seems to say is to be continued. I hear Mr. Morrice is dead, and that the commissary of stores and commissary of provisions at Lisbon are gone to England. We've found these two officers in all places, where we've been, have rather chosen that their accounts should be examined in England than upon the spot.

A ship which came in this afternoon from Port Mahon brings us the first news of the Duke of Argyll's being returned for England; that the troops are arrived at Mahon from Catalonia with Antony Hammond, Esq., who has fought a duel with Colonel Farmer; Hammond was slightly wounded in the arm, and Farmer disarmed. If I can guess, a former want of money there has been the occasion of this quarrel; this ship goes out to-night for England, which gives me this opportunity.

LEOPOLD, DUKE OF LORRAINE, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, December [12-]23, N.S. Luneville—Desiring the continuation of Lord Oxford's good offices with the Queen with regard to the due consideration of his claims at the peace congress. His envoy the Baron de Forstner will explain the sad condition in which his affairs are. [See p. *ante.*]

DR. HUGH TODD, Canon of Carlisle, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, December 18. Carlisle—When I was in town, I had the favour of your library, where I met with many accounts of things which are not to be found in any other repository of antiquities, and I was glad to see so valuable a collection increase daily. To add to it what was in my power, I left with Mr. Wanley my consent to a proposal how he might have the charter-book of Fountains Abbey, which I had given to the College where I was Fellow. Since my being in the country, I sent to him an original charter of a small religious society in London, with the seals and episcopal confirmation entire.

By Mr. Dean [Smalridge], my very good friend, I now present your Lordship with a volume of the Erection and Endowment Charters of two of the oldest and richest abbeys in this county. Some few of them are in the "Monasticon," which could not be left out without prejudice to the collection; and if I may know that what I present you with is acceptable to you, this volume shall be followed by two or three more of the same kind, as soon as I can have them fair writ. The materials will be such as are not to be had anywhere else.

The request which I humbly offer to your Lordship is, that (as you are the greatest encourager of learning in this age, so) you would be favourable and propitious to my studies and circumstances. I have the happiness to be known to her Majesty, and have endeavoured to serve the Government, as much as I was able in my station, especially upon the late happy Union. I writ a dissertation upon that subject, which gave great satisfaction to many gentlemen, both of the English and Scotch side, to whom I showed it, and I have on all occasions firmly adhered to the interests of the present ministry, and have suffered many ways on that account. I have been a Canon of this church almost thirty years, and know the affairs of it very well, and have in many instances done it acceptable service, as Mr. Dean can witness.

If another vacancy of the Deanery here should happen (as there is reason to think it shortly may), your Lordship will please, out of your great goodness and generosity, to recommend me to the favour of her Majesty, that I may be so happy as to succeed to it. The Deanery of Carlisle is a small remote preferment, yet such as would be very acceptable to me, who was born in the country, and have married a person of condition, who is nearly related to all the gentlemen in it: Sir Charles Dalston, our present sheriff, is her cousin german. I am, my Lord, somewhat in the decline of life, and have laboured hard, and you will allow me to wish that I had an honourable retreat, and an easy descent at the last. *Ultima pœna via est et eget moderamine certo.*

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, December 21*—I was at your Lordship's door to wish you joy, and I do with great sincerity rejoice at every new honour and advant-

* So dated, but endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Jan. 21, 1712-13, R[eceived] Jan. 23."

age that happens to you and your family, and I wish it may be ever in my power to make a better return for the friendship and favours I have received from your Lordship than I am now only able to do by these professions. Your Lordship has at this time the disposal of a great office in the Exchequer, I am sure I will not be so impertinent to say anything of that, but I think it my duty to you, and to the Exchequer, to beg of you to take care that the officers employed under him that the Queen shall honour with that charge, be men acquainted with the business, and capable to discharge so great a trust, with skill and fidelity. I beg pardon for this presumption, but I have seen such fatal consequences from partiality, or covetousness in the disposal of these under offices, that I can't help addressing to your Lordship to guard us against such misfortunes, and I wish any occasion could happen in which it might be tried if I had not the same concern for your success and honour in all other parts of your ministry.

GEORGE LOCKHART, of Carnwath, M.P., to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, December 23. London—I have several times presumed to speak to your Lordship concerning the Commissioners of the Peace in Scotland, but not having an opportunity to give your Lordship so full an account of the matter as I find it needful, since all the applications that have been made to my Lord Keeper have had no effect, your Lordship, I hope, will allow me to acquaint you that after the dissolution of the last Scots Parliament in March 1707, and before the commencement of the Union in the succeeding month of May, the Privy Council did appoint new commissioners of the peace in every shire, in the framing of which this rule was laid down and followed, that no person whatsoever should be employed who had in Parliament voted or out of Parliament addressed against the Union, by which means the most considerable of the nobility and gentry were left out, and the power lodged in the hands of rigid Presbyterians, the creatures of the Squadrone, and the inferior sort of the gentry, nay in some shires, to make up a number, mean people such as little country lawyers and noblemen's servants, and even *valets de chambre* were named.

After the abolishing of the Privy Council and the passing of the Act of Parliament giving and extending all the powers of the justices in England to those in Scotland, the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain did appoint new commissioners of the peace for any shire, consisting of the same persons who were named by the Privy Council, and these have been continued to this time, without any alteration, excepting that by Lord Wharton's mediation about four years ago, I got myself and half a score more added to the shire of Edinburgh. Upon the late happy turn of affairs, such of us as were candidates at the election of this Parliament did promise, and it was then expected we might have long ere now had so much interest as to have got this grievance redressed, which took and prevailed with a great many to join and assist us.

After the Parliament met several of the members did apply jointly and separately to my Lord Keeper, and gave his Lordship lists of such persons as they humbly presumed were proper to be omitted, and such as were proper to be added, in hopes his Lordship would have issued out new Commissions, but to this day we have not found so much favour as to obtain them.

From this short but true account of this affair, your Lordship can't but believe that the people in Scotland are in very bad hands, and I

can further assure your Lordship from my own experience, and the just complaints of others, that the persons who are vested with the power do not use it in vain, neglecting no occasion to advance their and their friends' designs, it being very well known that no person who has at elections or any other way appeared for the interest of the court can obtain common justice, all such being oppressed and harassed to a very great degree, which will certainly have a considerable influence at the next elections, since such as have been thus balked and oppressed will scarcely think it worth their pains, to expose themselves to the malice of a revengeful party, when in return thereto they cannot expect to be in the least supported or protected, far less rewarded.

The Tories in Scotland were in hopes to have been otherwise dealt with, and though their zeal carried them on at the last elections to interest themselves and carry a representation in both houses, which, I think, hath served the Queen very faithfully, the same will not continue, nay, I am afraid will be found to be very much cooled already by reason of the many disappointments and little encouragement they have met with, for if I be not much mistaken in the accounts I had and observations I made when I was lately in Scotland, there will be more difficulty than is imagined, or perhaps represented to your Lordship, in making of right returns of either Peers or Commoners to the next Parliament, it being generally complained of, that those persons who did, and still continue to, oppose the Queen's measures are continued in offices of power and profit, that any few alterations that have been made are in favour of those who joined heartily with, or at best but trimmed during, the last ministry, and such as did stand it out then, and have served the Queen since, have not interest to obtain the smallest favour either to themselves or their friends.

Your Lordship, I hope, will do me the justice to believe I have no particular view in urging these matters so far, 'tis true I must bear a share with others in the loss we will sustain by being disappointed of the protection and encouragement we expected to ourselves and our friends, but when we represent to such that we used our endeavours, 'tis to be hoped that they will excuse us. My only concern is for the public good, and I may venture to assure your Lordship there is nothing would be more for her Majesty's service than a rectification of the commission of the peace, and I would fain think that if your Lordship would be pleased to interest yourself a little in it my Lord Keeper would not delay it any longer.

I have heard it observed that King Charles the Second's way and manner of refusing was more obliging than a certain other Prince's granting of a favour, and now that the dissolution of this Parliament approacheth, and that interest is already making against the next elections, the sooner that, or what else may be thought proper and esigned for the encouragement and support of such as have and will appear for her Majesty's service, is done, 'tis certainly so much the better.

Postscript.—I had almost forgot to acquaint you that in some shires there are no acting justices at all, and in others so few that there is not a sufficient number to execute the laws concerning the excise, which, as the commissioners told me, hath much prejudiced the produce of the revenue.

The Duke of Kent to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712, December 24. "Rest" (Wrest) House, Bedfordshire—Not being able to obtain any answer from the Lord Steward to his enquiry

about the date of instalment of the new Knights of the Garter, writes to state his readiness to agree to any time, and to come to town at a minute's warning, as soon as the date is fixed.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, December 26—Your Lordship's letter was so obliging and of so much importance that I was unwilling to return a hasty answer by the messenger that brought it. I have read it over with great pleasure, and think myself highly obliged to your Lordship for the kindness and favour you express to me. Whatever accidents or whatever fatality have hitherto hindered our clearly understanding each other, the loss, the misfortune, has been wholly mine, it was always my inclination to have it otherwise, 'tis my desire and 'tis my interest to obtain it by all endeavours I can use, and all service I can pay your Lordship. And to show you what impression your letter has made and how fond I am to clear up any misunderstanding I shall open to you my sentiments without caution or reserve.

Your Lordship tells me the dispatches from France and Spain seem to point at a speedy general peace, God make it soon, and lasting! I must own, I think your Lordship and I differed in the way of obtaining that blessing, but the scene is quite changed, my schemes are at an end, and I am neither so obstinate or romantic, to pursue things made impracticable. All I have now at heart, all I at present wish, is to see the government firmly established and our trade encouraged and enlarged. I can never think the Queen's life safe, till the first is settled beyond dispute and beyond hopes of bringing us into confusion at her death, and we have merited from the French some indulgence in the latter.

These two great points demand your Lordship's care, the right settling of these will crown your reputation; and to finish this great work, if I can be of any use command my assistance; in the one I think I could help you, and I wish to do it in the other. 'Tis with you to judge of that, and if you let me know how and in what manner I can promote the good of my country, express my duty to the Queen and your Lordship, and show my zeal for your honour and the credit of your administration, you shall see me readily embrace the occasion, without asking conditions that shall give you any difficulties. I have been used to act a disinterested part, and you may claim my service on the same terms others have had it.

SIR CON[STANTINE] PHIPPS to the LORD TREASURER.

1712, December 26. Dublin—I am informed by Mr. Justice Upton that your Lordship was pleased to direct him to advise with me about the prosecution of the nonconforming ministers who have not qualified themselves by taking the oath of abjuration, and to consider of what consequence the delay of further proceedings against them may be until such time as the public affairs may be settled by a conclusion of the peace.

Your Lordship knows very well that the dissenters here have no toleration granted them by law, but their indulgence in the exercise of their religion is by her Majesty's grace and connivance, and God forbid they should be deprived of that liberty so long as they use it

in such a manner as not to endanger the peace and quiet of the kingdom; but whether they ought to enjoy it upon better terms without a law than are granted to their brethren in England by a law is humbly submitted to her Majesty to determine.

Their ministers not only refuse to take the abjuration oath, but in opposition to her Majesty's supremacy in ecclesiastical affairs convene assemblies, call synods, exhibit libels, summon witnesses, and proceed in form to pronounce sentences; and these synods are attended by great numbers of the dissenting clergy and by many hundreds of the laity, and are opened in a seditious and hostile manner by entering the town in a public cavalcade, every minister being attended with a layman on each hand, well armed to the great terror of such of her Majesty's subjects as are of the Church of Ireland.

They try sometimes by their menaces to terrify the justices and others from doing their duty, and a clergyman having writ against them, and being active in endeavouring to preserve his parishioners from being perverted by them, a letter was sent to him, and in it a *memento mori* as an intimation what he must expect if he continued his opposition to them. The gentleman apprehends himself in so much danger from them that he offers to exchange his living for one of a much less yearly value in another part of the kingdom, but he cannot find anyone who hath courage enough to make the exchange with him.

There was about a fortnight ago an assembly (which they call a presbytery) held at Belturbet in the county of Cavan, by ten dissenting ministers, their business was to establish a Presbyterian congregation and settle a minister there, for which two young probationers stood candidates. There never was yet a settled congregation in that town, nor were any dissenters there till about two or three years ago, when some few were sent thither on purpose for a handle to introduce a minister, and settle a congregation, and they are now going to build a meeting house. The magistrates oppose them, alleging that the town always enjoyed peace and unity, and there was an entire conformity in the inhabitants to the established religion, and that their permitting a dissenting congregation to be settled there would introduce schism, and divide the town into factions and parties; but the presbytery persisting in it, and threatening to make a Drogheda of Belturbet, the Grand Jury at a sessions held for that purpose presented all the Presbyterian ministers and some others, and they are bound over to appear at the assizes. The corporation and the clergy of the diocese have respectively made their representations of this to us, which we have transmitted to my Lord Duke of Ormond.

I must also acquaint your Lordship that in Belfast the dissenting party have erected a society for reformation of manners (as they call it), of which about fifteen are sworn once a month before the sovereign of the town in the nature of a Grand Jury, and sixteen articles are given them in charge by which they are to represent (as they phrase it) the several matters contained in those articles. This society have taken upon them to compel the constables to go round the town with them, and to enter people's houses and take what persons they think fit, and imprison them; their foreman was indicted last assizes for false imprisonment and fined, and the rest will be dealt with in the same manner if they continue to exercise such an arbitrary and illegal power.

Thus your Lordship observes to what a height the dissenters of this kingdom are arrived. There is no doubt but her Majesty will one time or other think it necessary to vindicate her Royal prerogative, and give a check to such bold and open violations of her ecclesiastical

and civil authority, but what time will be most proper for it with regard to the great and weighty affairs now on her Majesty's hands the great wisdom of her Majesty and her ministry can only determine. I cannot foresee that the delay of it till the conclusion of the peace can be attended with any ill consequence.

I beg leave to add my humble request to your Lordship that when you take the Irish affairs into your consideration you will be pleased to remember the recommendation by my Lord Duke of Ormond of my son for the place of Register of the forfeited estates.

ROBERT LOWTHER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, December 27—It was three years ago last August since I told Major Wyvill in York Minster that Dunkirk would be in the possession of the Queen of Great Britain's troops in 1712, and that men of note would pass through Toulon with as much safety as in Dover or Portsmouth. Now since this is come to pass I have the same reason to tell you that your person is in danger by the factious party, and if you do not take more than ordinary care you will not live to see Candlemas day, as near as it is. Pray remember the dismal end of a great Duke, who was lately butchered, but your death is designed by a blunderbuss loaded with a number of balls. You may remember what became of Mr. "Thinn" (Thynne), called by the name of Tom of Ten Thousand, and I pray you may not meet with the same usage betwixt Charing Cross and Westminster before next Candlemas day, as near as it is.

My dreams will oftentimes prove fatal to those that will not have regard to timely caution.

Postscript:—I design next Monday for Bishopthorp, I mean to the Archbishop's of York. If your Lordship has any commands please to order your secretary to give me notice.

The EARL OF KINNOULL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712, December 27. Dupplin House—I have now a long time forbore to give your Lordship unnecessary trouble. I should rather say unseasonable—for I have a great many things to say, but that I am afraid it may yet be unseasonable to represent them to you till the peace is concluded. I shall only in general beg leave to tell you that there are abundance of discontents in this country, both in matters of Kirk and State, and nothing could keep people in any temper but the hopes of a peace and that, after that great work is perfected, care will be taken to establish some government and order amongst us, whereby justice may be done, and by a vigorous executing of just and moderate measures the authority of the Government restored and supported; for now we have no government at all, everyone does what he pleases, but I shall say no more now of those matters. I shall only beg leave now to congratulate your Lordship upon your daughter, my Lady Carmarthen's marriage, which I just now had account of from her sister. I wish her with all my heart much joy and happiness in her new state of life. Though I wish her as well and as happy as I can wish anybody, yet I shall wish her no happier in her choice, than her Lord will, I am sure, be in his. I am heartily glad to hear the good character everybody gives of him: may they long live a happy couple. I wait your Lordship's commands, if you please to let me know whom the Queen

inclines to have chose in place of poor Duke Hamilton, whom I cannot name but with the greatest regret. When you would have me go for London, if I shall wait the election of our peers or what else you think fit, your Lordship knows that I will readily obey your commands.

DR. FRANCIS ATTERBURY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1712, December?] Sunday—The Bishop of St. David's was yester day with me. I desired him when he saw your Lordship to propose to you the silencing of the present controversy about the validity or invalidity of lay baptism by such an intervention of the Crown, as put an end to the dispute between South and Sherlock, and was formerly practised by King Charles I., with relation to the four particular points, in his preface to the Thirty-nine Articles.

The Bishop promised me to move this to your Lordship, on Monday, if he saw you; but I thought no time should be lost in starting the matter to you, and have therefore ventured once more to trouble you with a letter, being deeply sensible of the inconveniences that may attend the protracting of such a dispute; and protracted it will be and carried to a greater height, if one part of the Bishops' bench should decide it without the consent of the other, which is the scheme at present under consideration. In truth this is a point which ought never to be decided any otherwise than by the practice of not reiterating baptism, when once given in due form, though by improper hands. This hath always been, and will always be, the practice of our Church doctrine. And I am satisfied that if such a decision could, at this juncture, be obtained, it would involve us in great confusions. For that reason I presume to suggest to you this expedient towards preventing the ferment likely to arise on such a decision. You will be pleased to make such use of it as you in your wisdom shall judge proper.

E[LIZABETH], DUCHESS OF HAMILTON, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1712, December?]—I've desired Mr. Stebben to acquaint you what precedents there are of Knights of the Garter, who died before their instalment and have by a dispensation from the Sovereign been registered as Knight companions of the order and had their plate fixed in their stall, a favour I earnestly desire may be allowed me to perpetuate that mark of distinction the Queen was pleased to show the Duke of Hamilton, therefore I beg you will speak to her Majesty that I may have leave to put up my Lord Duke's plate when your Lordship and the rest of the Knights put up theirs. The report about the affair between Lady Mohun and me is to be laid before the Queen and Council to-night, but I hope her Majesty will be so good as not to determine what she'll do in that matter, but leave it as it now stands.

GENERAL W. CADOGAN to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1712, December]—The protection I have had from you on all occasions, the great honour you have lately done me, in hearing so favourably what the Duke of Marlborough was so kind to say in my behalf, and your promising thereupon to interest yourself in procuring me her Majesty's leave to attend his Grace, make me presume to trouble you with my most humble thanks, and to intreat that you would please to finish what you have begun with so much goodness in rela(tion) to

the permission desired. The Duke of Marlborough's ill health, the inconvenience a winter's journey exposes him to, and his being without any one friend to accompany him, make the requesting leave to wait on him an indispensable duty on me, who for so many years have been honoured with his confidence and friendship, and [I owe?] all I have in the world to his favour. These considerations therefore encourage me to hope for your approving, and granting what I take the liberty to beg on this occasion. At the same time I most humbly desire you to believe that if ever I were so happy as that my services could be of the least use to her Majesty or your Lordship, I should hasten to obey your commands with the greatest diligence, and endeavour to execute them with the greatest zeal and fidelity, to prove which shall be the business of my life.

FER[DINAND] FAIRFAX to [the COUNTESS OF OXFORD].

[1712, December?]—Your Ladyship heard what Dr. Swift said last night in relation to my Lady Duchess offering 500*l.* more towards the apprehending Macartney. Her Grace with all the reason in the world being resolved to act in this and everything else with my Lord Treasurer's directions, that there may be no mistake, desires your Ladyship would enquire whether it is as he says by my Lord Treasurer's orders, it seeming to her Grace a presumption in her to offer a sum equal to the Queen, and as it is his Lordship's great goodness that has enabled her to give anything, she must be so far a more troublesome petitioner to desire the favour of his Lordship to appoint the goldsmith and sum if he will have it done, your Ladyship knowing it is not proper by any other means at this time for her Grace to seem able to do it.

J. TOLAND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[*c* 1712]—One of the services I always looked on myself most capable to render you is, to acquaint you with the general notions, right or wrong, that obtain at any time in the town; with perhaps a true account of their original and tendency, what might be hoped or feared, done or undone, by such means. This, had I your commands for it, should be duly and punctually performed. In the mean while I cannot but inform your Lordship that the project upon which your enemies most rely in order to lessen your fame or power, is to create jealousies in the people of your disaffection to the Hanover succession, not that the abdicated ministers are capable of believing anything so gross themselves; but they hope you'll be so afraid of disobliging or irritating some, as to give handle enough for misrepresenting your intentions with much plausibleness. They are at present most industrious on the subject of the Scots advocates, and confidently report that you opposed in Council Lord Shrewsbury's motion of making them a severe example, even naming those who sided with each of you. Then to give this insinuation the greater force, they make people remark, that not one man has been punished for the invasion; that Lord Middleton's sons were discharged in triumph; that we are so long without a minister at Hanover, and that my Lord Griffin's attainder is to be reversed. I humbly think by the way it were much better making his son a Lord, if he has any merit for it. They make themselves merry with the pretended fear of exciting another Sacheverell, and say this last is the Queen's pensioner. The Scots business, however by some extenuated

or mistold, however made a jest or a boast by others, is looked upon by all sober men as a premeditated trial, and the proceedings upon it will be considered by them accordingly. Yesterday's Gazette clears the faculty, but not the criminals. It therefore, I think, behoves the present ministry, whose lenity will be construed fear or favour, to signalise their displeasure in some public manner, as far as the law will bear them out, for the friends of the old ministry will not fail to say, that either such an attempt durst not have been made in their time, or that they had made those madmen a terror to all others. *Liberavi animam meam,* and shall only add these words of a first minister:—*Est omnino iniquum, sed usu receptum, quod honesta consilia vel turpia, prout male aut prospere cedunt ita vel probantur vel reprehenduntur; inde plerumque eadem facta modò dilgentiæ, modò vanitatis, modò libertatis, modò furoris nomen accipiunt.*

There's another thing of which I have a better opinion, and about which I am therefore particularly concerned. I mean the South Sea trade. This, as your own child, your enemies would starve, and some of your friends would overlay. I dare answer that your Lordship will obviate the malicious suggestion of the discarded, that such directors will be appointed this time, as the city would not choose at any time. Men of undoubted property, and a due mixture of Whigs and Tories will silence all clamours, or render them ineffectual. I will not take upon me to name without your order; but as I am your true champion among the well meaning Whigs, who come in to you in great numbers every day, I recommend one man for a director, as having purely qualified himself and brother, because he perceived others endeavouring to discountenance the thing. He is undeniably worth 3,000*l.* a year in land, besides his stock as a merchant; has an untainted reputation with both parties, and is powerfully allied among the Whigs. 'Tis Sir Alexander Cairnes, Baronet, one who believes my Lord of Oxford a hearty friend to his country, however he may defeat the knavish projects of those who have brought a discredit on the very name of Whigs, which yet he'll never disown for the sake of the thing.

The next thing I presume to mention, is the match talked on. I had always resolved to go on that errand between your Lordship and the Duke of Newcastle, but that you gave me so few opportunities of speaking with you. Yet I have nothing to object against my last motion, unless the sum be thought too little, since Mr. Gold has a possibility of begetting sons, though it be no way probable. But this shall continue a secret between my Lady Cairnes and me till I know more of your Lordship's mind, for I think an interest in the city is not to be slightly cultivated. My Lady was highly pleased you received her motion so civilly, and doubts not, if you find it convenient, of doing good offices.

Having said so much in relation to your Lordship, I shall spend the rest about myself, a subject with which I am least inclined to trouble you of all others: and as I ever had your honour and interest in view, so you may have learnt from Mr. Penn, that I would not so much embroil you with your Jesuits of Christ Church, who in such hands may be good for something, as to desire a post in my own name. There's a time for that, as for all things. I know there are places very little subject to notice or envy, but I likewise know how much you have to manage. Yet there are a thousand ways, to which I am no stranger, whereby you may provide for me, and make me not a little useful to your Lordship, as well as easy to myself. Two hundred pounds a year,

quarterly paid, is the utmost I expect, and for which I want nothing but your commands to do acceptable service. Besides anything of this nature by my tongue or pen at home, I observe you are in many things very ill served abroad. Do but once order me, and I shall soon convince you what I can draw from the Hague, from Hanover, from Berlin, Dusseldorf, and Vienna; and what in all those places I can diffuse. I need not take up any of your time by enlarging on these things, for nobody better knows or understands them than yourself. Till, therefore, you pitch upon the method of settling me without costing yourself anything, I am absolutely pressed by the nature of my so uncertain and irregular affairs, to beg you would this day order me twenty pounds, which will keep me, I hope, from further importuning till the way mentioned be found out. If your affairs will not permit you to speak with me this time, then I earnestly beseech your Lordship to give the bill enclosed to Mr. Read, and likewise your answer to Sir A. Cairnes. I am dubiously informed—but will be sure of it before night—that Oldmixon, one of the despicable tools of the late poetical ministry, is the author of the book advertised yesterday of the two Earls of Oxford and Mortimer.

Postscript.—To show your Lordship how long I have been an object of the apostate Whigs' malice on your account, I send you the enclosed libel, which is the first wherein I had the honour to have my name joined with yours in the 19th query. You are Treasurer, but when shall I be Archbishop? I got the "Oath to an Invader," and sent it to Hanover. 'Tis a pitiful piece.

JA. FURNEY, Mayor of Gloucester, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712-13, January 5. Gloucester—I send your Lordship a couple of lamprey pies, as a present from this Corporation. Your acceptance of them as a mark of their respect and esteem for a person of so great merit and honour is all that is desired by it from us.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712-13, January 7—Your Lordship's indisposition is not only my misfortune, but the nation's, and I yet believe the time will come when your enemies will acknowledge it, though for so long as Heaven permits, Satan hinders.

The earnest desire I had to have laid before you a brief account of my long journey has made me too importunate, and my own circumstances, which I cannot hide from you on whom Providence and a cruel party have made me more than ever entirely depending, have concurred, and I most humbly ask your pardon. But a particular special affair moves me now to apply to you in a case from the company of brass manufacturers, who have been with me to state their affair, and which I may lay before you previous to their public application. They say they are able to serve the Government, so as to save a great sum in the value of copper for the coinage of farthings, which they hear is now under direction; they do not offer at the coining part, but at furnishing copper ready wrought for the work.

It is my zeal for her Majesty's interest, which I know your Lordship makes your own, which makes me mention this, and shall be very glad to have been so officious, if you find it as they allege, fit to be accepted, assuring you I have no other interest in it.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, January 9 [O.S.]. Hague—Mr. Cadogan went from this place to Antwerp on the 2nd instant, having first received bills from England on Amsterdam for above 50,000*l*., which when he was getting accepted, he told the merchants there he had removed his effects from England, believing no security any more to be there, and he would advise them to do the same. Some say that the sum of bills which he had was much larger, but I am not sure of more than 50,000*l*. He showed in all companies those accepted bills, especially one of 25,000*l*. accepted by Clifford; he offered to set it upon a cast at basset with the Duke de Ossuna, at Count Maurice de Overkirk's house, producing at the same time several other bills of large sums in case the Duke should gain, and all this happened in a pretty insolent manner, the poor harmless Duke declaring that he made no profession of game.

When Cadogan came from Amsterdam with all his bills accepted, he went to Mons. Slingelandt and produced to him his own receipt for 280,000 guilders worth of States' obligations which the Duke of Marlborough has had some years lying in Mons. Slingelandt's hands, demanding those obligations in the Duke's name, at which Mons. Slingelandt being surprised asked if he had brought no letter from the Duke to him. Mr. Cadogan said that the Duke did not think fit to mention such things at this time under his hand, to which Mr. Slingelandt replied, I must either have a letter from the Duke or his Grace's acquittance on the back of my receipt, which accordingly Mr. Cadogan procured, and took up the obligations, and in the same manner a larger sum from Mons. Ellemet, formerly receiver general to the States General. How much this sum is I cannot know certainly, but my friend assures me that it was above 300,000 guilders. Mons. Ellemet would not tell the sum, but told the story, and then he and Slingelandt both went and acquainted the Pensionary with what had happened, who set Slingelandt again upon Cadogan to know the reason of removing this money, and Mr. Slingelandt said to Mr. Cadogan:—Sir, I wonder how you come to tell me that you think England not a safe place to trust your money in, and that all the paper credit in England is only fit for tailors to cut out into measures to measure clothes by, and you yourself not only remove your own money. but the Duke of Marlborough's money from the States' security to place it in England. Upon which Mr. Cadogan said, no, by God, we have brought money also from England, having better interest and better security from the Emperor than either England or Holland can give us, besides the honour and interest and liberty of Europe require us and our friends to support the Emperor, in so just a war.

This declaration surprised my honest old friend, who says the Emperor is treating a peace, and at the same time borrowing money to carry on the war. He asked my opinion in the greatest confidence, whether I believed that the Duke, who loved his money so well, would venture to lend it to the Emperor; I told him that I believed they would buy up guineas with the money, which are in plenty in Flanders, and send them over to England, but I would endeavour to get him true information what they were doing with their money, and that I was informed that Mr. Sweet, who used to employ much of their money, was gone privately into England. In short, the removing their money out of this country has removed the affection of their old friends here from them, in a manner which I much longed and wished for. Mr. Cadogan

every day gave great treats here, or was entertained; one of his healths was to all the good governors of this Republic, who had not prostituted their country's good by a damnable scandalous peace to the enemy, on which Mons. Goslinga rose up from Baron Bothmar's table, where this health was proposed, and went out; and at his own table confusion to France was drunk by him, and refused by others, who are members of this State, so that in general such insolence, profuseness, and outrageousness in one man in so short a time have not been known.

One evening he came into my Lady Albemarle's assembly, where soon after the French ambassador came in. Mr. Cadogan having drunk his bottle began to be insolent, on which my Lady Albemarle went to him and told him, Sir, the States have peace with France, and the French ambassador is as welcome to us as any other; we know nothing here of your humours of Whig and Tory, therefore you may find another place to talk and insult, but not here; on which he resolved to retire.

The letters from Rastadt of the 30th December give great hopes that the preliminaries will be agreed upon, and Mons. Hoghendorff, who was in England with Prince Eugene, is expected here as soon as anything is determined. The Grand Pensionary is now some easier that the Duke of Bavaria is not to have any possession in the Spanish Netherlands, but still apprehends much trouble with the Emperor and particularly about the Princess des Ursins' pretensions, blaming England's compliance to that old lady, by which they have been also obliged to declare in their treaty of peace with Spain, that they shall not deliver up the Spanish Netherlands to the Emperor till her principality, worth thirty thousand crowns a year, be established on her and her posterity.

I pray, my Lord, send over our Earl if he be to come; I hope to send you a better in his room, who I hope will lay the truest foundation of a lasting peace and friendship, and become the best instrument of reducing of faction that can be wished for, for the parties will find themselves abandoned by their foreign ally, and will soon see that the way to be well abroad is to be easy and to live well with their sovereign at home, and learn to obey as becomes subjects to the best of sovereigns. This project daily advances, and I hope will come to maturity, but both good conduct and secrecy are requisite, for the divisions here are troublesome, and ministers must be circumspect. If the Earl be still in England and your Lordship thinks fit, you may be pleased to tell him that I desire leave to come over to England for ten days to settle my private affairs, in case I should be desired to make a trip over to ask a question.

It would be some satisfaction to me to know whether I be doing good or not, in as few words as you please, wrote in any hand your Lordship pleases, for I mind the little seal, and if your Lordship thinks fit you may read the first sheet of this to Mr. Secretary Bomley, for I promised to be an useful correspondent to him, but I find seldom occasion to be so.

Charge against Nicholas Rowe.

1712-13, January 12. Whitehall—Depositions of Elizabeth Spann, widow of Capt. Jonathan Spann, of H.M.S. *Rupert*.

In the previous September the deponent had prepared a petition to the Queen about her late husband's affairs, and Nicholas Rowe was recommended to her by one Mrs. Meridon (Rowe's aunt as appears

later in the deposition) as a person who understood perfectly the methods of the Secretary's office. The petition was therefore put into Rowe's hands, who brought it back in about two months' time with a reference on it to the Lords of the Admiralty, signed by Lord Dartmouth, for which Rowe said he had paid three guineas to get it hastened. Some time afterwards he acquainted Mrs. Spann that he had procured the report of the Admiralty thereon. With the connivance of Mrs. Meridon the deponent was led to believe that Mr. [Erasmus] Lewis had been paid by Rowe ten guineas for his services in the matter, and was to have twenty more when the business was done. Wishing to see Mr. Lewis herself she found Rowe averse to it, and so finding there was some mystery in it she enquired through Mr. Thomas Dummer of Mr. Lewis, who assured Dummer that he had never received a farthing, and would as soon have picked a pocket as have taken money in such a case.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712-13, January 15—The affliction it is to me to have lost the favour of being admitted to your Lordship as usual I cannot express; if I were conscious of having dishonoured that favour or done anything willingly to offend you I should know that I ought to expect it as a just punishment.

I humbly ask leave to claim your promise to me, made long ago, that if in anything I incurred your dislike, or displeased you, I should know it first from yourself. No man alive would, if occasion permitted, serve you with a more disinterested zeal, at more hazard, or perhaps so much, from a sincere principle of affection to your interest. Shall I say no man has been used like me by this furious age, for openly avowing myself in your interest, though my services are but small.

I am not saying what I have been able to do, I am not either vain to boast, or reflecting; but what I have a will and inclination to do, I may, and with the greatest humility I do, say no man has more; but when I speak of the treatment I meet with in the world for even but a will to render myself useful to your interest, there I suffer, as if I had been more your instrument than I have vanity to suppose I was ever capable of.

The distresses I am reduced to by this, though they plead nothing with your Lordship by way of demand, yet they claim your pity and compassion, because they oppress me on a supposition of my having the honour of serving you. At least, I would humbly hope, the popular hatred incurred by me, for opposing this enraged party, shall not be a ground to lose me your favour, which would cause them to triumph over my distress.

I know your goodness, and have had long experience of it. I know the being ruined for adhering to principle, and the true interest of the nation, which your Lordship always made your own, cannot disoblige you. Nor does any man suffer (my unhappy case excepted) for faithfully espousing her Majesty's interest without being otherwise comforted.

While you were pleased to be the instrument of her Majesty's bounty to me I cheerfully faced them all; but if I lose that relief I must fall under their hands, who have no mercy, and be as miserable as they can wish. Nothing but an extremity of this kind could oblige me to expose my case so much. But were it possible to describe the treatment I have from these people and the circumstances I am reduced to by it, unless your Lordship, on whom under God, I depend, deliver and

support me, it would move your compassion beyond what I can hope for. I most humbly entreat your favour, that her Majesty's bounty, which I have enjoyed by your goodness and intercession, may not be stopped, since being maliciously deprived of all business and other subsistence by the party fury of your Lordship's as well as my enemies, I shall be reduced to the utmost distress if I am deprived of your assistance.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712-13, January 19—What your Lordship was pleased to say to me about the distraction of a party is nothing but what I have seen with great regret, and what I have long waited an occasion to lay before you.

It is this which I have lamented in my own case, that having no assurance of support, or of your favour, I have not dared to tell them so plainly as I would do and as they deserve, how they prevent her Majesty and your Lordship doing even themselves the good you would do them, and as far as in them lies do the nation all the mischief they are able. It is my misfortune to be what I never was, especially in a just cause, viz., a coward and afraid to be at the mercy of furious and foolish party men, merely for want of that capacity of standing, which my confidence in your goodness ought to furnish me with. I humbly lay myself at your feet, with this resolution that these wicked designs shall never want a due reproof, and for myself I will still depend upon your goodness that you will not suffer a mean servant to perish in the defence of his country and your Lordship. The attempt, if possible, to raise a mob to insult the French ambassador, on pretence of importing wrought silks, French wines, &c., custom free; this I purposed to acquaint your Lordship of, and how busy they have been in Spitalfields to that purpose. As to his Excellency's importing a great many bales of Jesuits and priests, a sort of goods contraband, this, however ridiculous here, they make great use of in the country, and print libels about it, stuffed with all the simple and absurd stuff in the world; yet it takes with their party. The distraction runs now to such a height that they are not backward to own that that horrid principle of the worse the better, and that all our safety now lies in bringing all things into confusion. They say openly they desire the Ministry would bring in the Pretender, and that inflaming the nation is the only way to deliver them.

To this end their incendiary the "Flying Post" goes on with such a kind of insufferable insolence, and they triumph so in the Ministry's forbearance that really he does a very great deal of mischief. They openly boast the Government cannot touch him, that four informations are laid indeed, but the Ministry dare not try them, that they are ready for them, let them begin when they will, and the like. This, my Lord, no Government can bear, and I am sure the late Ministry did not bear it. There is no doubt any jury in England would bring in that paper a libel. Innumerable passages are to be found in it, which they blush at themselves, and I could give your Lordship abundant assurance that if the fellow were pushed he will never screen the author long. I know him to be no man of sense or principle.

I never was forward to prompt any man's fate or disaster; I believe your Lordship knows it is not my temper. But never Government was insulted in such a manner, and never cause was so kept alive by the

scandal and ribaldry of so insolent an author. I have many other things to lay before you, but I wait the time when you will admit me, and I shall attend to-morrow according to your commands.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712-13, January 23—I had not given you the trouble of my calling last night, but (as I understood your servant) by your command, and ask pardon for the mistake. At the several times I have had the honour to see your Lordship (your leisure not admitting me to give you the trouble) I have forborne offering the enclosed proposal [*missing*]. I thought it might be improper to delay it longer lest, as the people allege, it be of real service to the Government that benefit should be also delayed. It relates to a petition which I enclosed some days ago, from the brass company to supply with copper plates for coinage. If it be of public use, I shall be glad to have communicated it; if not, I hope for your pardon. They will apply in the ordinary way by petition to your Lordship, and my laying it before you thus was in order to have stated the thing for your immediate information in case you had found it needful.

Earl Ilay to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712-13, January 26—Not having had the honour of hearing from you since the two last letters I presumed to trouble you with, pardon me if my fears threaten me with a relapse into apprehensions of my having misbehaved myself some way or other. I won't repeat anything I took the liberty in haste to say upon the subject of Turkey, but I should be very glad if every particular of all the conversations I had upon that subject were under your consideration, and in that case I may venture to say you would find more reason to pity than censure me. The honour, and the great and certain profit with any hazard or trouble (more than the journey which to me was nothing) were objects too tempting to one of my temper and circumstances not to be highly wished for, and (if I may presume to use the word) I can never expect in my life again to be guilty of such another self-denial: so that the very misfortune of my being not in a capacity to accept of so great a favour, is, I hope, punishment sufficient, without farther incurring your displeasure. I could not well in a letter explain what I ventured to hint to you of my being in a way of a farther settlement here. I designed (and would still if you would give me leave) to reserve that for the honour of a quarter of an hour's conversation with you; I have this satisfaction even in that matter, that I shall show the world I will have no scheme of any kind independent of you, and that I could not better demonstrate my sincere devotement of myself to your service, than by my throwing myself entirely in your hands, and that premeditately too. Were I not conscious to myself of my innocence of all has been said of me lately, and which you have been so kind to tell me you did not believe, if I did not still find myself in the same disposition you ever knew me to take all occasions to throw in my mite on your side, whatever bad character I may unfortunately wear, I flatter myself I should not have been so weak as to put myself farther in the way of appearing before you for protection; I had not, my Lord, thus made a tender of the rod, if I had not intended to deserve not to suffer by it, and the greatest offence I hope I shall ever commit will be such a long letter.

SIR WILLIAM FLEMING to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712-13, February 8—Urging the claims of his brother George, archdeacon of Carlisle, to succeed to the deanery there, which is expected to be shortly vacant. Two candidates, Dr. Todd and Mr. Gibbins, parson of Greystoke, solicit much for it; but he believes his brother to have as many personal qualifications as either of them, and an advantage of them in birth, which he hopes will not render him less acceptable to a person sprung from a family so remarkably ancient as his Lordship's.

ASSAYMASTER OF THE MINT.

1712-13, February 9. Mint Office—Report signed by Cra. Peyton, Is[aac] Newton, and E. Phelipps that Charles Brattell is best qualified to succeed his brother, the late Daniel Brattell, as Assaymaster. Mr. Kemp is a person of great capacity and integrity, but not at present able to execute the business of the office. Mr. Cumberlege and Mr. Oadham were bred refiners, and by their trade have skill in assaying, but they are less known to us. A blank warrant for a grant of the appointment is annexed.

In Sir I. Newton's handwriting.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1712[-13], February 14—In my last I mentioned the usefulness and service several ways of some measures for separating the Squadroni in Scotland, I could not refrain (though I hope to attend your Lordship on Monday, according to your command), giving a short account to you of the restless attempts of the distracted people here to carry on their professed aversion to her Majesty's measures. More especially that their present view is to alarm and amuse the common people with terrible dismal apprehensions of Popery and the Pretender.

Under the first head they are now spreading it over the countries that the papists are arming and preparing for a general massacre; that innumerable numbers of priests and Irish papists are come over, and the like, with which they really amuse the poor people, and render them very uneasy, especially in the country.

Of their suggestions about the Pretender I shall give you a farther account, but for the present humbly lay before you a paragraph or two copied out of a letter I received last post out of Lincolnshire, which I thought very necessary to acquaint your Lordship of, and is as follows—

"We are very much disturbed here with the news our friends write "us from London, and with the paper called the 'Flying Post,' which "has been sent enclosed like a circular letter over all this country, "suggesting very strange and unaccountable things, which almost "sink us, and had we not some hopes that these things are not true in "fact, but were entities of his own brain, it would quite overwhelm us.

"The first is the affair of Mr. Lewis, which has made so much noise "in town and country, the substance of the story he takes out of the "'Daily Courant.' I wish you would explain that affair to us, for he "insinuates a direct correspondence by it between our court and that "of St. Germain. The next relates to the new Treaty of Barrier and 'Succession concerning which the 'Flying Post' tells us, that what-"ever our danger shall be, the Dutch are come under obligation never

"to come to our assistance till the Government or Ministry that shall "then be shall send for them, and this they represent as effectually "tying up the hands of the Dutch to leave us to the mercy of a Jacobite Ministry.

"Another story he tells us is of a design in the next Parliament to "settle the succession so as the Queen shall leave it by will to whom she "pleases, and this is much magnified by private letters from ———

"Another story by the said letters is that the Ministry design to "compliment the freeholders and landed men by taking off the Land "Tax entirely, and laying a settled and excessive load upon stock, and "that a vast loan to the Queen is to be made upon that fund, the "Ministry designing for their secret purposes to get all the money in "the nation into their hands.

"These are dismal stories I must own, but what very much supports "me is that I believe them to be most, if not all of them, false. If "these men have no grounds for what they write I think they are "very ill suffered not only as causing very unreasonable, but very "anxious perplexing thoughts, in the breasts of the best people, but "as endeavouring thus to support a cause that never till now wanted "lies and chimerical contrivances for a refuge, and also putting those "things into the heads of our enemies, which perhaps they never "thought of before."

I could not but lay these things before your Lordship, who alone is able to correct the insolence of these people who are justly called incendiaries. I do not fail to use my utmost endeavour in all places to undeceive the people, and expose these wicked designs. But what is the utmost so mean a hand can do? Your Lordship can apply the more immediate cure. My author is a dissenting minister, but one of differing notions and temper from these people. I humbly lay this matter at your Lordship's feet, and am, &c.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"C. Guilot, Feb. 14, 1712-11" (*sic*).

W. Bromley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712-13, February 18—Was I able to suggest any heads to your Lordship for the speech, the encouragement you are pleased to give me would oblige me to do it. I observed little to be added, or altered, unless as to the diction, and that I am sure you will make very correct. There was one word (and in that perhaps I am impertinently nice) that affected me upon the reading, and does so when I think of it, and that is where the Queen says she shall wish no longer to *reign*, than &c. I humbly offer it to you, whether *live* would not be better, because I would have nothing, however remote, come from the throne, to countenance the deposing doctrine, our princes' reigns and their lives should be of the same duration.

As to the successor I will talk with gentlemen, and let you know their thoughts. In the meantime I take the liberty to say that if any words can be used in the speech that may prevent the motion, or furnish an answer to it, I think they should be.

A. Wescombe to the Duke of Argyll.

1712-13, February 20, old style. St. Philip's Castle [Port Mahon]—To avoid giving your Grace unnecessary trouble I shall confine myself to three points, which deserve attention, and claim a speedy redress.

It is hoped as to eatables we shall fare pretty well when we are in peace with our neighbours, but we may be reduced to starve in the midst of plenty by want of fuel; the stock of wood on the island will not answer above a year. This has another bad consequence that the wood we have is oak, on which feed all our winter meat, and wanting "oakerns" we shall likewise want pork, and be mightily straitened, for no other meat on the island is then eatable.

The settling of the laws here deserves to be considered; if these people are to maintained in their privileges then their laws must be kept, but as these stand at present the inhabitants may commit villanies with impunity, and our people suffer for the least faults.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712-13, February 22—I return you many thanks for the honour of your letter of the 20th. 'Tis a great satisfaction to me to be made any ways serviceable to your Lordship, especially in a matter which has long been nearest my heart, the preserving the coin. I cannot sufficiently commend your early care to prevent any mischief from that quarter, from whence we escaped being ruined so narrowly, and had the same watchfulness been showed by those in your station, when the first clipped and counterfeit money was admitted into the Exchequer, the cheat had been easily stopped, and that mischief been soon cured, that cost so many millions afterwards to remedy. I hope your vigilance in this great affair will not only meet with its due praise, but will prevent the evil you intend to obviate, which is the best reward to generous minds. I have carefully examined the returns which the Tellers have made to your orders, and considered the deficiency of the silver moneys in weight as appears in their accounts, and by them, it seems to me, that the loss the public has yet suffered in the diminution of the coin is not much more considerable than might be expected. If any ill men are again setting up that gainful pernicious trade of washing or counterfeiting the money, you cannot be too much upon your guard to prevent and stifle such practices in the beginning. I do not know that anything of this kind has been offered at the Exchequer; silver washed by aqua-fortis, or plated money, may easily be distinguished by the eye, and you might give orders to have them refused at the Exchequer, or cut asunder if they appear to be counterfeit. But as to the loss by wearing, which seems to be the defect of the money in the Tellers' hands, that may easily be accounted for. The hundred pound bags of silver moneys in the Exchequer are too light by about seven ounces, and a half apiece one bag with another at a medium. According to an examination that was nicely made of some old hammered money it appeared that shillings lost a grain apiece by wearing in eighteen years, more or less, sixpences lost a grain in about fifteen or sixteen years, half-crowns in about twenty or thirty years. After this rate every hundred pounds of milled money should have lost in its weight by wearing about 4½ ozs. or 5 ozs. in the sixteen years, which are past since the Great Coinage. And the specie being much diminished then, what remained has circulated oftener, and run quicker from hand to hand, and the quantity being less of the whole has occasioned a greater loss in proportion by wearing, as the lesser specie diminish most by constant use. It may likewise be supposed that in the great hurry of the coinage at that time the money was not so exactly sized, the allowances and remedies

were not so nicely made, but room might be left for the goldsmiths to cull out the heaviest pieces, and leave some lighter than they ought to be, which makes the difference in wearing seem 2 ozs. more than it should be in proportion to the observations made on the old hammered money.

I have taken some pains to explain my thoughts at large to you on this head, I wish you do not think me long and troublesome, but your commands led me into it, and my inclination is very strong to endeavour to serve my country in an affair in which I hope I have a little merit. There is but one remedy against the loss by wearing, taking away the necessity there is of telling it backwards and forwards perpetually; this can only be done by increasing our wealth and augmenting the specie, so that there may be enough to hoard, and enough to go to market. There is an artificial way that does good, the encouraging paper credit, which you have much improved by the provision you have made for the non-specie Exchequer Bills, the use of these Bills and Bank Bills in all great payments will save the wearing of the moneys, and the gold is more ready for all payments, but those in the market. If therefore you will please to go on to protect and support this credit, which you have so well established, I think 'tis the best remedy for this loss, till by enlarging our trade and increasing our riches we arrive at the effectual and adequate remedy.

This very bad weather makes me very cautious and keeps me at home, but I am well enough to attend your Lordship at the Treasury to meet the officers of the Mint.

Colonel Richard Kane to the Duke [of Argyll].

1712-13, February 25, O.S. Mahon—No bills for our subsistence have been received since Christmas; though there has been money brought up from Lisbon it does not appear to belong to the Queen, but to private merchants. If I had not kept the money for present subsistence, which Sir John Lambert remitted to clear the establishment to Christmas, we must have been in a very ill way before now; and this is putting hardships upon a few officers of some regiments and upon the staff of the island, but there is no remedy.

There was very lately a prospect of fixing a precedent in the army by bringing the chaplain of Lord Tyrawley's regiment to a court martial, yet, though the Doctor [Lockhart?] was much in the wrong, the matter has been accommodated lest it should have been turned to a wrong sense at home.

Various promotions, &c., in the regiments notified for the Duke's approval. The poor fellows are delighted with the approach of the warm weather, for they will soon be naked.

Lord Forbes sailed for Barcelona on the 21st, and intends for Cadiz before he returns.

H. Bishop of London to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712-13, March 4. Fulham—Pardon me if I ask whether you have done anything in the discovery I made to you in relation to her Majesty's Communion plate given to the successive governors of the Leeward Islands. Great silence was enjoined on Sir John St. Leger, that the matter might pass with as much secrecy as possible, to have

it converted into new plate for the governor's lady. If you please to give me your directions I will take care to have some person look after the matter.

Postscript.—If your Lordship would be pleased to leave your commands with your doorkeeper, Mr. Wickett, I shall take them from him.

LORD LEXINGTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1713, March 6.] Madrid—I delivered yours to the Princess des Ursins, who was extremely pleased with it, and, indeed she has been very useful to us. I think I may say all the facilities we meet with in matters of trade will be entirely owing to her, and I hope I may tell you that we shall send you the best Assiento that ever was made, and a more advantageous Treaty of Commerce than any nation has ever yet had. I am sure I acquainted you or Lord Bolingbroke above four months ago, that at my first coming I had put a stop to those passports for the South Sea, and 'tis above a month ago that they have been actually revoked, and Mr. Giligan (*sic*) undertaking to acquaint you of it, I did not trouble you with it again, and I will only add one vain word, if you are pleased to forgive it, that all her Majesty's commands which I now received have been performed as far as we were able, before we received the orders, as you will find by my relations to Lord Dartmouth.

I must now return my most humble thanks to you for your kind expressions, and must freely own to you that my heart was almost broken by not receiving one answer to the many letters I had done myself the honour to write to you, which made me apprehensive that I had done something to forfeit your favour, which though I was not conscious to myself of any such thing, yet it gave me great disquiet. I have desired Mr. Lewis to deliver to you one of the proxies signed as you direct, for fear you may want it before I can dispatch the courier, and will send the other by him, and I am sure my interest in the country can never be employed better for her Majesty's service, than by your direction.

The EARL OF BARRYMORE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712-13, March [6-]17, N.S. Port Mahon—I came here three days ago, and am in hopes to go away in as many more. This garrison is in a very bad condition in relation to provisions and money, and if some care is not taken will have a very ill effect. The Duke of Argyll has promised to represent the state of matters here fully.

Mr. Whitham waits till I get to Barcelona, and then goes home, and so does Brigadier Bissett, so I shall be left to myself to be baited by the officers of the three reduced regiments in Catalonia, who are without money or ships to carry them home. Their case is pretty hard. but I hope some speedy care will be taken of them.

I will from time to time trouble you with our affairs in this part of the world, where I find I shall have enough to do and nothing to get. There has been a thorough gleaning, the house is swept very clean.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712-13, March 8—I cannot but think it would be to your Lordship's interest more than any man's else to establish the Queen in peace and

quiet, and to put the nation in security and happiness for ever. Upon this foot I beg to enter into whatever measures you please to prescribe. Allow me to wait upon you to adjust anything you judge proper for that purpose, and I dare say Lord Somers will be ready to attend you, though what passed between us shall be a secret till you command me to speak of it.

JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712-13, March 9. Petty France, Westminster—Asks leave to dedicate to his Lordship a collection of versions of the Lord's Prayer, &c., in all the languages that he can procure from any part of the world. Has spent some years on them, and hopes to make the number, including dialects, near two hundred; intends to have all the Oriental versions engraven on copper plates at his own charge; and as he has had the assistance of the ablest men, in and out of Europe, he hopes the work will not be unworthy of his Lordship's "patrocination." Sends a specimen lately received from his learned friend Dr. Hickes.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712-13, March 9—I could not help expressing my transport on receiving the letter you did me the honour to write yesterday, and I think I ought not to omit pressing that affair since you have so far encouraged me in that freedom. 'Tis a matter of the highest importance for the Queen's quiet and ease, for the nation's security and happiness, and for your honour and establishment, and may be easier settled than overthrown. Had I any hints for instructions to send you, I would have no reserve to communicate them, but as you know their requests and desires, so you are the best judge how far they can be complied with, and you are most capable to contrive, and obtain, that which is most secure and effectual. The part I shall affect is to receive instructions from you, to be admitted to so much confidence as to be a witness of your good services, and to be an instrument under your direction to bring your schemes to bear; to obtain so great a blessing to my country there is no part I would not take either at home or abroad. I think it most feasible, and most right for your character and station, and I might be useful in it; if you think so, employ me, and and depend upon the utmost affection, sincerity, and secrecy.

CHARLES HART to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1712-13, March 15. Charles Town, South Carolina—Since my last to your Lordship the Assembly having examined into the state of the Provinces and finished the business that lay before them, the Governor, with the advice of his Council, prorogued them to the 22nd of this instant. The two years is now expired, and a new Parliament must be called. I doubt not but most of the same gentlemen will be re-elected, and will meet again with the same disposition they left us, full of duty to your Lordship, and zeal for the service of their country.

The Act of Assembly, which I sent to your Lordship that passed last sessions of Parliament, for raising the sum of 52,000*l.* part of which sum to go towards paying off the debts of the country, building a State house, and a house for the Governor; and 32,000*l.* to be let out to interest at 12½ per cent., the principal and interest to sink in

twelve years. Some people were of opinion that this project would not do, but they are convinced to the contrary, for if there had been three times the sum, the planters would have taken it up, and have sound security.

We are under some uneasiness here by reason we have heard nothing from our forces since they went to the assistance of North Carolina; Mr. James Moor, who commands the army, in his instructions was particularly ordered to omit no opportunity, but by all manner of ways give an account to the Governor that if any disadvantage should happen to him immediate care might be taken to supply that loss.

I hope Governor Pollock hath written to your Lordship by the way of Virginia of the state of your Province, for at present we are ignorant of their condition; so soon as we have any account from them, by the first vessel I will transmit it to your Lordship.

Dr. Francis Atterbury, Dean of Christ Church, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712-3, March 15. Christ Church—At my coming down I found all the Canons, whom I met here in chapter—Dr. Smalridge, Dr. Hammond, Dr. Burton, and Dr. Altham—in better temper than I had formerly done, and took the opportunity to propose to them that, since they decline an appeal to the Visitor, our differences about point of right might be adjusted by a reference to your Lordship, or to my Lord Keeper, separately or jointly, if either or both of your Lordships would vouchsafe us the favour of hearing them. Of these three proposals the Canons have accepted that of referring matters to you, and my Lord Keeper jointly. Dr. Gastrell, who was confined to his chamber by the gout when I made the proposal, has agreed to it, and they have sent to know the opinion of the absent Canons.

I beg your pardon for presuming to think that, among the great affairs which now lie on your hands, you should have any room for thoughts of this nature. And yet I venture to say, that these little matters may be of so great consequence as not to be wholly unworthy of your Lordship's inspection. The peace of this College, and the just power of the Dean—by which it has hitherto flourished—are things which I know you must have at your heart, and desire to see settled.

Lord Lexington to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, March [17-]28, N.S. Madrid—This will bring you the basis of the Treaty I have made, which you must perfect. I have done all I could to bring everything as near my instructions as I could, which I hope I have pretty well performed, and for the rest, I could do no more, as Mr. Guillingen can witness, unless I would have refused to sign any treaty at all. They are now grown so stiff, and considering the many valuable things I have obtained, by the which England will get such great advantage by trade and otherwise, I thought it was better to humour them in point of religion, than send you back an open treaty, which at this time might have very ill consequences; so that I hope you will screen me if I am found fault with upon that subject, though I think I can justify it pretty well by my instructions. The article about the Princess of Ursins was of the same nature, for both the King and Queen told me nothing should be signed, without I passed it in that very form it is now; and without she is pleased nothing can be obtained here.

I most humbly beg you will order me a quarter of my extraordinaries to be paid, for I do protest I know not otherwise how I shall make my equipage, which will stand me in above 1,500*l.*, besides what I brought from England, and the furnishing my house from top to bottom, even to glass windows, has already swallowed up all that I have had from her Majesty, even by your favour. I have writ to my Lord Bolingbroke at large, desiring him to acquaint you with my humble request to have leave to come home after the peace is made, and my reasons are so strong that I hope you will approve them, and grant me the favour, for I protest before God I would not remain here another winter to be king of the country. I beg your pardon for the length of my letter upon my own subject, but who can I have recourse to but yourself, who has so generously taken me to you, and I hope I shall always show myself not unworthy of the friendship you have been pleased to honour me with.

I here send you the other proxy signed, which I hope you will have no occasion for, now so good a peace is so near at hand, though the malice of the enemy is great. I wish you this good success in Parliament, happiness and prosperity to yourself and family in all your undertakings.

The Duke of Schonberg and Leinster to [the Earl of Oxford].

1712-13, March) 19—Enclosing a petition praying that the Queen would intercede with the King of France for the restoration to him of his estates in France, which had been confiscated at the beginning of the last war.

Colonel Richard Kane to [the Duke of Argyll].

1713, March 28, O.S. Mahon—I cannot forbear representing again to your Grace the miserable condition of the supernumeraries, and how despicably they appear to all strangers that come into this port. Most of them are unfit for service, and a needless expense to the Government; and with these I am forced to subsist several miserable widows and orphans. A transport ship or two could carry off all the invalids and useless people, and with them I could clear the island of a notorious crew that belong to no regiment, but mere plunderers and strollers that have always followed the armies in Portugal and Spain, and whom I look upon as the principal occasion of our disorders and distempers amongst the soldiers.

I have frequently recommended unity and friendship to the clergy and magistrates of the island, and have told them that since they were become subjects to the Queen they should lay aside all animosities that had been among them upon account of the Princes that had contended for them; and just as I began to hope that a good understanding was begun among them the partisans of Madrid had dispersed a notion as if the island was sold to king Philip, and that we were soon to be withdrawn from it. This rumour has taken such effect that those who were formerly in our interest are dejected to the last degree, and the others grown intolerably impudent. These notions I will endeavour to destroy, but first by fair means.

If your Grace has approved of a notion I mentioned in a former letter of forming something in the nature of an Academy at Mahon, we shall hope for success; but till that can be effected we have thought

of another amusement not improper in an Academy, a library, for which such a scheme is laid as may make it valuable in a little time. As a commencement several gentlemen have given books which are to be placed in an apartment in the Cloister, and put under the care of Mr. Colin Campbell, mate (?) of St. Phillipps, a gentleman whom Mr. Lockhart recommends as a fit person, being a studious man and a good scholar.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1712, April 1—The last time I had the honour to see your Lordship was upon the case which I had laid before you of Clark, of Derbyshire, and the clamours of the foolish people on that occasion. Had not the accident, of which I shall speak presently, intervened, I had waited on your Lordship to relate the victory I gained upon that occasion. When I came to talk with those people again, how mute and ashamed they stood, when I asked them if they could name me any one man to whom you had allowed the liberty of selling a civil employment, and when they could not say they could name any I asked, how then they could say this was a singling out a Dissenter, and where the Dissenter was who even since the late Act had been prosecuted, though I named them several who kept posts in the public offices, and were seen at the meeting houses every day, and some who went railing about in coffee houses all the week at that very Government whose bread they eat. After that I saw the man himself, I convinced him that his friends, as he thought them, were far from doing him any service in the noise they made; and that if these things were prompted by his complaints, I could liken his case to nothing so readily as that of Adonijah in the text, who not content with having been spared by Solomon, asked a foolish favour against his own life. I told him, if these things came to the Government's ears, he ought to think it an unusual clemency if he was permitted to enjoy what he had. The man, I believe, was satisfied he was in the wrong, and as I hear is since gone home, and I suppose your Lordship will be troubled no more with him.

I had laid some other things before you, but am obliged to excuse myself on the following occasion. I have often troubled you with long complaints of the hardships I meet with from an angry party upon their notions of my being in the interest of the Ministry, and entertained by your Lordship, and though I have not the merit of rendering you any services worth naming, yet the fury with which these men treat me is proportioned to the greatest, and indeed they honour me in their malice as if I was capable to serve you more than I can pretend to, though I rather judge they show by it what treatment not your Lordship only, but all her Majesty's faithful servants and best friends should meet with if this party had the power. However, I never thought that party resentment could have stooped so low as to pursue it to private injury till I was surprised as I was coming from home to have attended upon you last Monday seven night, and was taken up by an escape warrant. This sleeping lion had been retired into the country, where the creditor lived (at Yarmouth) ever since the year that by your favour and appointment I travelled a journey into the west, and when (which I ought never to forget) you were pleased to concern yourself for my preservation from it. It had never more stirred had not a private set of men here in mere revenge prompted

and even solicited the person to stir now, assuring him that I had great favours, &c., which I am satisfied they knew nothing of, but believing that such a process would effectually ruin and destroy me.

Though I do humbly complain in this manner, and am indeed in great danger of being quite overwhelmed by this disaster; yet I am not representing it to you to plead for unusual favours, your goodness to me has always called for my thankfulness, and left no room for encroachments unless with the utmost breach of modesty, which I hope is not in my nature.

However unhappy this may render me, I struggle to submit to it, with that resignation that becomes me. I have yet kept it from coming abroad, and am striving to bring it to some accommodation if possible. If your Lordship will allow me in a case of such extremity humbly to mention that the usual period of her Majesty's bounty being a few days past, and which your goodness would have allowed me to move (though this had not happened); if, I say, your Lordship will be pleased to grant me that help at this time I shall hope to disentangle myself without a public blow to my affairs. I would have concealed this disaster from you, having too often spoke of my own circumstances, but I feared my being so long absent might cause you to think me deficient in my duty. The youth that brings this is my son, and shall attend if you please to permit it, to bring any return you please to grant me to this request.

With the humblest submission to your pleasure, I ask pardon for this motion, and though now distressed by a faction, rather than a creditor, I shall always endeavour to approve myself, at whatever hazard, yours, &c.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, April 4—I have too great a share and satisfaction in everything that pleases your Lordship to forbear congratulating you on the conclusion of the war, and I hope when I know the terms and conditions of the Peace, I shall have reason to rejoice with you, and to return you my thanks, to which I have a great disposition. The honour of your last visit gave occasion to a great many idle stories, but I hope you do not much regard such impertinence, and I am sure I would not lose one opportunity of showing my respect to you, and contributing anything to your service, and the establishing the Queen, and the Protestant succession, to avoid anything can be said of me.

Lord Lexington to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, April [6-]17, N.S. Madrid—I have been very ill ever since the courier went away, as has been Mr. Guillinghen, who still continues so, but I am better. I hope to go abroad again in a day or two. There has nothing happened here worth troubling you with, but what I give my Lord Dartmouth a full account of. I am very impatient till I know how your Lordship approves the Treaty, I am sure I can say I have done my best to make it entirely agreeable to the instructions I received from Lord Bolingbroke; where I could not, I have protested.

For those two about religion and the Princess des Ursins, I was forced to pass them as they are, or else I must have signed no treaty at all, but remitted it open to England, which at this conjuncture I think would not have been at all proper, which I take to have been the

opinion of your Lordship likewise, as well as of Lord Bolingbroke. I must repeat to you my request of being delivered from this cursed place as soon as I have done what is proper, and that I may have your word for it, for I do protest that I have had neither pleasure, profit, nor health since I have set my foot in Spain, nor shall I have ease of mind till I know my request will be granted.

There will be half a year due to me before this reaches you, I beg at least. I may have one quarter, and the extraordinaries paid me to enable me to make my entry, and to subsist, for, as I have already informed you, by furnishing my house, and making necessary equipage, I am quite drained. I hope you have received the proxies, and wish you may have no occasion for them.

Postscript.—I must add that if you would have fruits from the Assiento, and have things go easily here after the Peace, you must not balk the Princess, for her power is infinite, and she governs what governs the King, and she has lived long enough in Italy not to forgive what she may think an injury, and I can assure you that for my scrupling to sign the Article as it is, and endeavouring to put it in other words, I have quite lost her favour.

The Queen's Speech.

1713, April 9—Draft of the address of thanks for the Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament on this day, in Swift's handwriting:—We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, do with the greatest joy and satisfaction, return our humblest thanks to your Majesty for your most gracious speech from the throne, and for communicating to this House that a Peace is concluded, so honourable to your Majesty, and safe and advantageous to your kingdoms; by which we hope, with the blessing of God, that your people will in a few years recover themselves after so long and expensive a war. We likewise beg leave to congratulate with your Majesty upon the general peace you have procured for all your allies, wherein the true interests and just pretensions of each are so fully provided for that the tranquillity and welfare of Europe will be owing (next to the Divine Providence) to your Majesty's wisdom and goodness. We never had the least doubt but that your Majesty, who is the greatest ornament and protector of the Protestant religion, would continue to take the wisest measures for securing the Protestant succession, towards which nothing can be more necessary than the perfect harmony ["friendship," written by Lord Oxford in the margin] there is between your Majesty and the House of Hanover, and we do humbly assure your Majesty that as you are pleased to express your dependence (next under God) upon the duty and affection of your people, we think ourselves bound by the strictest ties of religion, loyalty, and gratitude to make all returns that can be due from the most obedient subjects to the most indulgent sovereign.

Another draft of the same also in Swift's handwriting—Ordered that an humble Address be made to her Majesty to return the most humble thanks of this House to her Majesty for her most gracious Speech from the throne, and for her Majesty's communicating to this House that a peace is agreed upon, and to congratulate her Majesty upon the success of her endeavours for a general peace, and for what her Majesty has done to secure the Protestant succession, and the harmony between

her and the House of Hanover; and to assure her Majesty that as she is pleased to express her dependence next under God upon the duty and affection of her people this House will make all returns that are due from obedient subjects to the most indulgent sovereign.

See *Parliamentary History*, Vol. VI., p. 1174; and Swift's *Journal to Stella*, under March 8, 1712-13.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, April 11—It was to pay the duty of my acknowledgment to your great goodness to me in my late affliction that I waited the other day on your Lordship though indeed not in condition to have come abroad; and being still indisposed I beg leave to lay some thoughts before you, which I believe of moment enough to merit some consideration.

The affairs in Scotland though yet quiet stand very tottering, and the public peace seems to turn upon very nice and critical points; the division of the ministers among themselves, I mean as *jurant* and *non-jurant*, tends to a wide breach, and in the approaching Assembly may probably appear ill enough stated. The *non-jurant* behave with rage and want of charity to the *jurant*, and are backed by the people, who, especially in the West, treat the last with insolent contempt and scarcely keep the peace with them, universally forsaking the churches where they preach, and refusing to hear them.

Hitherto the clemency of the Government in forbearing to prosecute the penal part of the Act keeps them quiet, as to outrage and violence. What medium to find out to keep them so still deserves the Government's immediate care.

I know some will offer to you a proposal to bring in a clause or bill to grant longer time, &c., for the taking the oaths. I confess I do not see that will be any expedient, because they will naturally contemn a grace that they do not seek. That longer time must some time or other expire; if, when it expires, the law is not prosecuted they will conclude the Government either approves their contempt of it or is not in a condition to resent it. If the last, the ministers who have shown their wisdom and loyalty to the Government by complying will really want her Majesty's protection from the rabbles, and those poor wild people will bring her Majesty to a necessity of using rough means with them on that account. If, on the other hand, when the given time expires those who refuse the oath now refuse it still, as it is certain they will, and the Government allows or commands the putting the law in execution, those ministers go immediately to the hills as they call it, set up field conventicles, and all the people run after them. If they are not suppressed then, they will grow formidable to the peace, insolent to the Government, and upon occasion dangerous; if they are, then follows a cry of persecution, and they will all run to arms as if on purpose to die for religion.

Pardon me the freedom of thus stating the affair of those people, which I do with a true zeal, both for their good and her Majesty's interest, humbly adding my thoughts thus:—

That though it is true the Government seems obliged to protect and as much as possible to encourage those who have complied with the laws; yet, since it is many ways inconvenient to press too warmly the execution of those laws, it seems better that those ministers may yet labour under some disadvantage than that the public peace be endangered.

On the other hand, my Lord, it may not be forgotten that if the nonjurant ministers (I mean Presbyterian all the way) are prosecuted to a dispossessing them of their living a great many of them will flock into England, and up to London, and what flames they will blow up among a poor distracted set of people here your Lordship knows very well.

Upon the whole, the affair seems to turn upon this single point, which your wisdom will determine, whether the proposal of a longer time with the hazard of the inconveniences above named is best, or whether, keeping the law as a rod over their heads, the execution may not be delayed merely as an act of clemency and forbearance, the certainty of its being executed as well as the reasons being not known.

Postscript.—I was going on with this when the occasion expressed in the cover to this broke me off, and I was fearful they would have taken this from me.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, April 12—I am really ashamed to lay before your Lordship so scandalous an account of a party of men, who ought to know better, as I must do in stating my affair to you. The persons, the pretences, and the design are equally foolish and malicious. The persons are Benson, Burnet, and Redpath, all three under prosecution from the Government for scandalous pamphlets, the first for the letter to Sir Jac[ob] Banks, the second for a book called a "Certain Discourse," the last for his "Flying Post."

The pretences are several, some too simple to name, but they were heard to say that they had all been prosecuted, and the "Review" had a full liberty, but they would bring him in whether the Ministry would or no.

The book which angers them is entitled "Reasons against the Hanover Succession," where their own topics of the allies being disobliged by the peace, and France being a power irresistible, and our fatal heats at home, are ironically laid down as reasons why we should think no more of the succession, &c. But all the rest of the book are clear and professed banters upon the Pretender. The particular in all most grievous is that in all I say I never would allow that the Queen and the Ministry were in the interest of the Pretender, which, however, I think now her Majesty's speech must make them ashamed of.

As to their design, I find their first notion is that the book is treason, and that therefore my Lord Chief Justice should refuse bail, and commit me to Newgate, which I am sometimes apprehensive my Lord may be weak and warm enough to do, and in that I cannot but beg your Lordship's interposition. Their next design is visibly an insult upon the Ministry, pretending that the Government neglecting to prosecute for an affront upon the House of Hanover they would officiously show their zeal, and also to let the Ministry see they will prosecute whom they please in the Government's name whether the Ministry will or no. I forbear to trouble you with the contradictions in this attempt, the town begins to be ashamed of it already, for the Whigs (not seeing the satire upon themselves in it) were all pleased with the book, and now they give out that the prosecution was for the scurrilous paper called "The Ambassadress's Speech."

I think I need say no more to you than give the names of the persons and the manner of their going to work, as a test of the design; only hinting again to your Lordship as a reason for the manner of writing in

all these books the necessity there has been to give a turn in all I wrote, which should gratify some of the weaknesses of those poor people to detect the rest. I believe the greatest injury they can do me is the expense and the surprise; the first, the wound which you know I had so lately makes me ill able to bear; the last, I hope will wear off.

I humbly beg your Lordship's protection, and such directions from the Secretary's offices, as may be thought proper by you to make my Lord Chief Justice easy to-morrow, when I am brought before him. The rest I refer to such measures as the nature of the thing shall direct afterwards, and as you shall think proper.

THE REV. L[ANCELOT] BLACKBURNE to [LORD LANDSDOWNE?]

1713, April 13. Exeter—I pursued your Lordship's directions in taking a fit season to acquaint the Bishop of Winchester with what passed in the discourse, which I had the honour to hold with you concerning him, as I truly think, without any material omission, and after a second conference upon the subject had this answer in charge to return to your Lordship.

He commands me to give you his humble service; is thankful for your remembering him with so much respect and justice to him in relation to his old friend the Earl Godolphin, for whose memory he must ever have all imaginable honour, and thinks himself obliged to express it in the best services he can to his family.

He bids me also thank you for the obliging overture of endeavouring to establish a friendship between my Lord Treasurer and him, and says that formerly, when his Lordship was Secretary of State, and Speaker of the House of Commons, his Lordship had expressed himself by several letters in so very kind a manner to him, that he could not but conclude himself to be very well with his Lordship. That he knows of nothing personal which he has done since to make it otherwise, unless the friendship which he owes to the Duke of Marlborough and the Earl Godolphin be so understood, which, if it be so, will in that respect make him very unhappy, since he can never allow himself to depart from it, as thinking the man, who can desert his friend in the day of adversity, not worthy the friendship or regard of any man of honour.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, April [14-]25, N.S. Utrecht—I had the honour to write to your Lordship upon the first proposal made to me by my Lord Bolingbroke, and her Majesty's plenipotentiaries here for being Commissary for regulating the trade to the Spanish Netherlands from her Majesty's dominions, which lies under very heavy impositions and discouragements, and having since received the honour of her Majesty's Commission and instructions to that intent, as I doubt not that the same was sent me by your Lordship's knowledge and consent, I take this liberty to return you my most humble thanks, and it being the first commission ever I was honoured with from her Majesty, I hope to be able to do some good by it to the trade of her Majesty's subjects, and that the Dutch as well as they may have reason to say, that I have not been employed in an affair which I am entirely ignorant of. As nobody can give you a truer account of the hardships imposed on the Queen's subjects in the Spanish Netherlands, and new conquests, than Sir

Thomas Hanmer, especially of what has been imposed since the Queen assisted to make these conquests, so nobody's advice is more proper to be taken how to have them redressed, and I have, I believe, contracted a friendship and good understanding with the Grand Scout of Bruges, and some others, on whose information Sir Thomas seemed to rely most. The greatest struggle will be how to bring the Dutch to reason, who have been so used to turn everything to their own advantage in the Spanish Netherlands, and to lay the Queen's subjects under double duties, that my friend M. Buys, though he has made many compliments on my receiving the Queen's commission, after some conferences with him and the Dutch deputies, was pleased to say privately . . . . . [*decayed*] their own burghers to treat against them, but he is a little mistaken, for I never was a burgher, only an inhabitant, and kept myself free of their burgher oath, and they shall have no reason to complain that I do anything in this treaty out of malice, but on just and good grounds for the benefits of the subjects of that great and good Queen, who has been pleased to honour me with her commission.

The Dutch, particularly Messrs. Buys and Vander Dussen, in the treaty of peace and commerce lately signed at Utrecht, have done, I believe, a very malicious thing to the Queen's subjects, though they suffer by it themselves, by joining underhand with Mesnager to deprive the Queen's subjects of the benefit of the tariff of 1664, without the four species which would have been of considerable advantage in many branches of the British trade; but because it would not have been much better to the Dutch trade than that of 1699, or Ryswick, the four species being excepted, they rather suffer a small loss than let us have a considerable benefit, and Buys brags always of their being to be treated *amicissima gente*, and that all benefits which England may receive from France for lowering or diminishing the duty on French wine or any French product, will be also allowed to the Dutch, which time must learn, and I think the Queen's plenipotentiaries are sensible of what I here mention to your Lordship.

My Lord Strafford, intending in a few days for the Hague, has been pleased to order me to make a memorandum for his Excellency, how to have several grievances removed from our trade in the Spanish Netherlands, and particularly to have all the States custom houses and officers thereto belonging, which they placed between the Spanish Netherlands and the new conquests, removed before the Dutch get possession of their barrier, for by these new custom houses they laid the product of the Queen's . . . . . [*decayed*] into the new conquests, and kept their own product entirely free. This grievance was represented to my Lord Townshend in good time, but he either could not, or would not, rectify it, and in their vindication of the treaty of barrier they answer this very lamely, and the articles which they made with the Duke of Marlborough about the siege of Ostend, by which they have been masters of it ever since, and had Sir Stafford Fairborn come then by sea to bombard that poor town, proposing from that day to date its ruin, and to stop its harbour, have laid our trade under great hardships. Unless the Queen can obtain a provisional possession of Nieuport till the Emperor make his peace, their having possession of Ostend till then may be of prejudice, and obtain them some articles either from the Emperor or the Spanish Netherlands to our prejudice, at least we cannot threaten them into reasonable methods by stopping their boats full of contrabands by the Queen's garrison at Ghent, but they will have the same

power over our ships and trade at Ostend, and I believe my Lords the plenipotentiaries are of this opinion.

I shall not now trouble your Lordship any more on this subject, but endeavour to settle such a tariff with the people of the Spanish Netherlands to be confirmed by the Emperor as will be acceptable to the Queen's subjects, and advantageous to their trade, and to perform the contents and intention of my commission and instructions in time to be ratified before the Lords leave Utrecht. I hope my Lord Orrery or some person of note and power will be continued at Brussels till the Emperor gets the possessions he is to have, otherwise the Dutch will become entirely masters of that country by the influence which Mons. Vanden Bergh will have there alone, and Sir Thomas H[anmer?] can best tell your Lordship of what use Mr. Lawes is there, and seeing my Lord Orrery has been so long there, the few months his Lordship will be longer necessary . . . . . [*decayed*] convenience, though it is said his letters of revocation are come over. If his Lordship be positive to go away I heartily wish that Major General Hill or some such disinterested gentleman would come there, were it only to hinder the Dutch doing us mischief, till everything be settled with the Emperor, and this is no wise incompatible with the Government of Dunkirk, and is a much healthier residence for Mr. Hill. M. Buys finding no inclination in the States to send him over ambassador to England to compliment and renew the friendship with the Queen upon the peace, is soliciting to go in that station to France, and I believe his town will push it as far for him as they can, for his obeying their instructions towards the peace has confirmed him in the friendship of the chief men of his town.'

The people's continuing to rail here (particularly at Rotterdam) after the States are come into the peace has been very handsomely taken notice of by my Lord Strafford in a late conference with their plenipotentiaries, and as they have entirely lost the Emperor's friendship by coming into the peace, which the Queen may make a good use of with the Emperor, little to their advantage, they must be strangely infatuated not to make more court to the Queen than they do; but some of their politicians are now for making court to France, and they seem to think Mons. Mesnager and they will come into a right understanding about trade, for which they have left that of their tariff with France entirely at an uncertainty, and with a liberty on both sides to increase and diminish duties as they shall think convenient, being sure always to be treated *amicissima gente.*

My Lord Privy Seal's indefatigable pains (though to the destruction of his health) with his great judgment and experience can never be enough commended, no more can the wise choice of them who advised her Majesty to put those two Lords together, whose courage and conduct have crowned their labour with success, and her Majesty's happy reign with peace, honourable to herself, and advantageous to her subjects. *Sic fiat in eternum.* Amen!

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, April 14. Newington—I had not gone home to my family before I had come, like the tenth leper, to pay my duty and acknowledgment to your Lordship had not my case made me unfit to see you harassed by the treatment I received, so hoarse with a cold taken

in their hands that I cannot speak to be heard; but, however, effectually cheered and revived by your most seasonable and happy deliverance.

This is the third time I am rescued from misery and a jail by your generous and uncommon goodness; and this is the goodness for which the gratitude of this age would have me against principle, conscience, honour, and gratitude, maltreat and abuse you, and for refusing which they fall upon me in this manner. But I am bound to your Lordship in bands too strong, and am sure, unless God and nature abandon me together, it is impossible I can forbear to serve your person and interest, while I live, at what hazard soever. I should be unjust to Mr. Borrett if I did not acquaint you that he executed your orders so wisely, with so much caution, so much indifference, and yet with so just an authority, that no suggestion could be made of his being directed, and yet the end was immediately answered; and I was set free, giving two sufficient bail for 800*l.* and myself 800*l.*

I shall take up no room in this letter with anything but my humble thanks and acknowledgment of so seasonable a deliverance, except it be humbly to beg you that Mr. Borrett may watch what progress they may pretend to make in the prosecution of this foolish attempt—to say no worse of it.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Mr. Goldsmith."

JOHN DRUMMOND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, April [15-]26, N.S. Rotterdam—After having troubled your Lordship with so long a letter about some matters concerning the public, I humbly beg leave to say a few words for myself, being come here to ship off my wife and all her concerns for England, whose late obligations to her native country put her under no great difficulty to part with it. I beg leave first to repeat what I have said in the long letter, that I hope it is with your Lordship's knowledge and consent that the Queen's commission was sent me to Utrecht, otherwise I wish never to have had it, and I must further acquaint your Lordship of another proposal made to me by my Lord Bolingbroke in a very friendly and obliging manner, and which is very honourable for me in every respect, which is to be her Majesty's Resident at Brussels and Consul for the Netherlands, under the Imperial Sovereignty. Your Lordship knows very well that I desire nothing but what you think proper for me, and that I will have nothing without your full pleasure and consent. I never knew the Court till your Lordship was at it, I never was acquainted with any one of it but by your Lordship, neither had I ever anything from it but through your goodness. I beg that I may be on the same foot still, I hope my misfortunes have done me no great prejudice in your sight, I want but a very small assistance to pay the last farthing that I shall be owing on my own account. Nobody expects nor desires more from me, and were it not that I cannot leave my wife without bread, but would force her to sell her small annuity of 160*l.* a year, which is left for her subsistence with her furniture and a little plate by general consent, I could immediately pay the full of my share, but those I have to do with are neither pressing nor necessitous, considering what I have done, and my only incumbrance is now with Mr. Sweet, who has made himself a Dutchman, and I believe intends to stay on this side.

JAMES LOUIS, Prince Royal of Poland, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, April [18-]29, N.S. Olau—Although he has not the honour to be known to his Lordship, the Prince hopes that it will not be taken amiss if he prays his Lordship to use the great influence he has with the Queen in the interests of the writer. The person who brings this letter will give all information required. *French.*

LORD PAGETT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, April 18. Jermyn Street—Asking him to prevail with the Queen to make him an Earl.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, April 19—I attended on Saturday, and also the evening before, to have laid before your Lordship some farther particulars of this affair of mine, which has given you so much trouble, and made so much noise in the world.

Though by your assistance I believe the mischief of this attempt will be effectually prevented, yet the particulars of it every day discover themselves more and more, and let us into a view of the original design, which design, lest my present indisposition should prevent my attendance to-morrow morning according to your command, I beg leave to give some view of, together with a method which I humbly offer to render their disappointment more effectual, and more mortifying to them than ordinary.

The design has many branches, and if I may use so much freedom I think they are all weak, foolish, and yet malicious to a degree.

1. Their design is aimed at your Lordship and her Majesty's interest, to let the nation see how formidable their faction is, and that they could overthrow any man who dared oppose them in spite of her Majesty's favour or protection.
2. They aim at making a discovery to the nation who are or are not in your Lordship's service, so that their falling upon me must, as they thought, infallibly answer their end one way or other; for that if the Ministry did not protect me, they knew they should oppress and sink me by the partiality and favour of my Lord Chief Justice (whose conduct has been really wonderful in it), and if you did protect me then they gained the other point by publishing first that I was secretly entertained and employed by you, which hitherto they have made much noise of, but could never prove; and secondly, that your Lordship should oppose a prosecution which seemed to be in behalf of the house of Hanover.

   They have a third end in all this, viz., merely to show an insult upon the Ministry, of which I need say no more here.

In all these things I think I may venture to say they shall be effectually disappointed if my following proposal be approved by your Lordship, and yet they shall never know that you have any way thought it worth your notice, anyway in the least concerned yourself in it. Mr. Borrett managed himself with so much prudence and good conduct, that they are perfectly amused, and make no guess upon what foundation he acted. And this because he came, not as concerning himself in having me delivered or in giving bail, but as having good satisfaction

that the bail which I had ready were sufficient (as they really were), though had he not appeared, the best bail I could have produced would have been rejected.

After I was bailed, my Lord Chief Justice called Mr. Borrett aside, and asked him if the Government would prosecute this De Foe. Mr. Borrett answered he knew nothing of that at all, upon which his Lordship said he would write to my Lord Bolingbroke to know, as I suppose he has done. The design of this is, that if the Secretaries decline it, this Mr. Benson will bring an information on purpose to try if I can obtain a stop to be put to their proceedings by *noli pros.*, which will give them an occasion of plentiful railing, which is what they desire. Now the Government may effectually prevent this if a seeming prosecution be actually begun (only I must depend upon your Lordship that it be not pushed on), and an information ordered against me.

1. This prevents their stirring in any separate prosecution effectually.
2. The true reason for not prosecuting it may be want of good evidence, which really will be wanting.
3. They have no reason to examine why the Government does or does not prosecute after an information is laid.

All this while I will complain loudly of the oppression, I will petition (I mean in print) to be brought to trial, and shall have abundant room to expose them for attacking me in a thing they cannot make out, and thus the pretence of being protected by your Lordship or the Ministry will be quite taken away.

If there is any defect in this scheme which I cannot foresee, I humbly refer it to your wisdom; the reason of my proposing it is purely to disappoint them in that part of their malicious design, which is pointed at your Lordship's person and administration. For there is no doubt but having a full stop put to their rage by your authority, would be much more for my safety as well as reputation, particularly as it would make them cautious of falling upon me again; but I see who this bullet is shot at, and if they do this in the green tree, what would they do in the dry? May you be ever preserved from their rage, mine be the wounds and the hazard, of whatever kind; and may my station be between your Lordship and all your dangers in the worst attempts of your enemies, even to a Guiscard's knife. I am sorry this foolish affair has interrupted me in those things of much greater consequence, which I had just begun to lay before you of the affair of Scotland; where the Assembly approaches, and where the establishing the troops and the approaching election offered me many things very needful for you to know; the first of which I was writing when the furies came upon me, and which I sent away to you unfinished, and without taking a copy.

I shall endeavour, being a little composed now, to begin where I broke off, and go on to those things I conceive are for your service. As to this affair I leave myself entirely in your disposal, with the greatest tranquillity imaginable resting on that goodness for my protection, of which I have had such constant experience.

Postscript.—If I am able to come out of doors I will not fail to attend according to your command.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Mr. Goldsmith."

J[OHN] CARYLL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, April 21. Lady-holt—If you still do me the honour to remember the name of Caryll, I entreat your acceptance of this early venison

and at the same time assure you that none congratulates the prosperity of your own family and the happy success that attends your management of public affairs more sincerely than I do.

LORD LEXINGTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, [April 22-]May 2, N.S. Madrid—In the first place give me leave to congratulate your Lordship upon the conclusion of the peace at Utrecht, and I shall think myself very happy if you approve what I have done here, at least I can truly say, that I did as much as man could do, to bring things as near my instructions as was possible. I hope likewise the courier got [there in] time enough, and before him from Holland, so that the Queen might declare the peace general, as to her, at the meeting of the Parliament. I must again repeat my request of being recalled, for otherwise I shall certainly in a short time lay my bones here, which I can't think can be of any service to the Queen, or your Lordship. I hope you will have the goodness to order me the payment of some money to enable me for my entry, for by the time this gets to you there will be half a year due to me, besides the extraordinaries of three quarters. I have sent to my Lord Dartmouth what is necessary for the Assiento, with a little paper written in French how they are to be made use of. Poor Mr. Guillingham continues still very ill, and I think it doubtful whether he will ever recover, and I have but just crawled about for these three months past, but thank God, I am something better, though I have not been able to eat any flesh meat in that time, my stomach absolutely rejecting it, not able to bear it, so that for God's sake get me leave to come home, and save my life. I wish the Queen health to enjoy the great work she has accomplished, and that you may find the gratitude that is due to you from the nation, for having been the great instrument in bringing it to pass. I hope you have received my proxies, but I have a letter from Mr. Lewis, who tells me he fears they will be of no use because of their dates. I am very sorry for it, but I signed them just as they were sent me without examining them, being in a hurry, but followed the direction, which was not to fill up the blanks.

The DUKE OF ORMOND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, April 25—I was at Court this morning, and stayed until near three, in hopes of having the honour to meet with your Lordship, and to ask your pardon for not dining with you to-day.

I have just received the honour of your Lordship's most obliging letter with the enclosed; it is what I do not pretend to deserve, but shall always own the honour the Queen is pleased to do me with all the gratitude imaginable, and never forget the obligation that I have to your Lordship, which I shall always own and show on all occasions.

JOHN DRUMMOND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, [April 28-]May 8, N.S. Utrecht—I had the honour to write to your Lordship by my wife, and I have ever since been here, and have had several conferences with the States commissaries and plenipotentiaries, both at their own houses, and chiefly at my Lord Privy

Seal's, in which I have made plain that on all the product of the Queen's dominions ever since their edicts of 23rd September, 1706, have been paid about eight per cent. more duty in all the new conquests than the Dutch produce and trade have paid; that all the fishing of her Majesty's dominions, such as red herrings from Yarmouth, salt salmon and pickled herring, both from Great Britain and Ireland, have paid fifteen per cent. more than their fishing of the same nature; and that on all our product, as well as fishing or other, going beyond their barrier into places of France, Lorraine, and the Empire for a better market and greater consumption are burdened by two duties of export, one to the Spanish Netherlands, and one other to the States of Holland. I demanded immediate and provisional redress of these abuses and impositions, showing them that it is only since they were put in possession of these conquests that the British trade was so burdened in these dominions, and that by the thirteenth article of the treaty of barrier, the Queen's subjects and the trade of her Majesty's dominions were immediately to be put on an equal foot with theirs, as well in the new conquests and barrier as in the Spanish Netherlands. They made so many objections and difficulties designing to keep matters on the foot they are (at least till the Emperor come into the peace), that even my Lord Privy Seal's patience was wearied with them, and he declared that my demand and proposals were just, and that I ought to insist on them, on which three of their plenipotentiaries with their two commissaries went to the Hague, and desired me to go with them, which I declined, seeing my Lord Strafford is expected here this night, to exchange the ratifications to-morrow, and that I should have no assistance there; and my Lord Privy Seal approved of my not going.

A copy of my whole demand and provisional proposal to take place till the Emperor come into the peace will go either by this or by the next post to my Lord Bolingbroke, and I hope your Lordships will be as well pleased with me on that side as the Lords plenipotentiaries tell me they are here, and when even the States come to grant this demand they will need to be well looked after in the performance, and if the commissaries of the Spanish Netherlands will mind their own interest and come into right measures I shall make it very plain to them that as great a transit of trade may go through their provinces to the continents joined with them as through any other provinces, and it is through that channel that our woollen manufactures may be carried into all the Northern provinces of France and farther, as well as our East India goods, etc., either by stealth or otherwise; and also through all Lorraine and Alsace, which are now chiefly supplied by another conveyance, and chiefly by other products than that of her Majesty's dominions. One reason why the Dutch delay to admit the Queen's subjects to this equality is because they say we will no sooner have it than the French will also demand it; but though I have not yet had any discourse with the French, I am sure the separate article which they made the Dutch sign past midnight, when they signed the peace, dictates that they may demand the same equality, and it is seldom that the French do not demand all that they have a right to ask.

The Dutch have heard that the Queen has obtained liberty for one ship to go yearly from England to the South Sea, and have been pestering the Duke de Ossuna to have the same freedom for the States. I wish the Marquis de Monteleon were come, for this Duke is for the show, and I hope the Marquis will prove the man of business, and cut short all demands of that nature, which the Duke is now instructed to answer that he knows nothing of the matter.

Mr. Ayerst, the Earl of Strafford's chaplain and secretary, who carries over the ratification of the peace, is a gentleman who has been at much pains in all this negotiation, and who can give your Lordship a very good account of every thing that passed here, and is much esteemed by every one for his honesty, modesty, and good behaviour.

There is a famous man also in this country, one Mr. John Law, who had the misfortune a great many years ago to kill one Willson. This Mr. Law has picked up in Italy a great estate, some say by army undertakings at Genoa, and some say partly by gaming, when the States General lottery was at a stand, as they were obliged to divide it. This gentleman, by the power of his ready money and by a calculation of setting a price and buying in of chances in the said lottery, made it take so favourable a turn in a few days that it did not only run full, but was at three per cent. above par. The Savoy ministers commend him much for some projects of credit, and easier and better managing of finance than they had before, and he has a good deal of money in the funds in England, I believe in my Lord Ilay's name, or under his direction. I should be sorry to see him settle at the Hague, where he has bought a fine house, seeing he is rich, and can be very useful, and unless his crime be very black, the service he may be able to do his country really deserves his pardon, and he has often, and now especially since the peace has been signed, said if my Lord Treasurer would get him his pardon, which was once granted by the King, but the friends of the person killed entered an appeal but are now willing to take a small sum, he would make himself very useful. I told him that his friends the Duke of Argyll and Lord Ilay were able to do him the best service, but now he only desires a reprieve for twelve months, to have a warning to retire again of three months, if he does not do something for the nation's service in money matters to your Lordship's satisfaction, and which you may think deserves the Queen's pardon or long reprieve. He is betwixt fifty and sixty years of age, and is really admired by all who know him here. I take the freedom to give your Lordship this account of him, knowing that he is soliciting to have a pardon or reprieve, and that I should always wish the Queen's subjects of such good estates and sense established at home.

The Duke of Atholl to the Lord Treasurer.

1713, May 1. Edinburgh—I came here Tuesday evening last, with a great deal of difficulty, the roads being very bad the other side of Newark, so was obliged to have four several sets of coach horses to be here in time. I found here your Lordship's letter of the 23rd April, that came by the flying packet, with the paper enclosed concerning the Queen's great care of the Protestant Churches abroad. There could not be nothing better worded. I have only added a few words to introduce it, and a conclusion to give occasion to the Assembly to return the Queen their thanks.

The Assembly met yesterday, which was taken up with the ordinary forms of the first day's meeting, as your Lordship will see by the abstract I send enclosed, together with my speech. They chose Mr. Wishart (a brother of Sir James Wishart's) their Moderator, he was thought the fittest person, since otherways it was feared the votes might have been split on any other, and by that means a non-jurant might have been chosen, which would have looked ill, both on the Queen's account and the Assembly's. I desired one of the members to move in the

Assembly that they should give the Queen their thanks for the great concern and care her Majesty had taken for relieving the Protestants abroad, but some desired to shift it by proposing such overtures should come first from the committee of overtures, which when I found was like to be yielded to, and so put off, I rose up and told them what is contained in the enclosed paper [*missing*]. When their answer to the Queen's letter passes the Assembly I shall send it by another express to your Lordship.

The Assembly met again this day, which was taken up with prayers as usual the second day's meeting. I was present, and received Mr. Hamilton's commission for Almoner, which I gave him; it came very seasonably. He returns your Lordship his own thanks in his letter, as I do most humbly to you for minding to order my pension as Privy Seal out of the Scots fund, which your Lordship acquaints me of in your letter; it is not yet sent me.

This morning Sir James Stewart, her Majesty's Advocate, died. The want of so great a man will be a loss not easily supplied for keeping things quiet in Scotland, especially the Presbyterians. I believe there will be none found fitter for that post than his son, Sir James, the Queen's Solicitor, who tells me he has the honour to be known to you. Since the Church of Scotland is Presbyterian, it will be found as it has been, absolutely fit to have one that has an interest with them in that Advocate's post, especially since the Commission of Assembly meets always at Edinburgh, where the Advocate must have his residence, and the son has been chiefly assistant to his father in that office these several years, so has had opportunity to learn the way of managing them.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, May 4th. Edinburgh—I did myself the honour to write to your Lordship by a flying packet dispatched Friday last, with an account of the Assembly's having met, with what passed there. This carries the Assembly's answer to the Queen's letter, which is enclosed to the Earl of Dartmouth with a copy of it from the Moderator to your Lordship, and another to Lord Bolingbroke.

The Assembly, as you will see by a clause in their letter, have shewn their great satisfaction in what her Majesty has done for the Protestants abroad.

I was desirous that the clause might be worded as in the first part of the enclosed paper, but after it was tried by the Moderator, Mr. Carstares and others have given their opinion that it would not carry, and therefore I did not insist on it before their committee or Assembly, because if it had been rejected, it might have been very inconvenient.

I hope the Assembly shall do nothing that is unacceptable to the Queen, and that they may rise Saturday next or Monday at farthest. It is usual that I be allowed by the Queen to acquaint them that her Majesty has received their letter graciously, if your Lordship sends it by a flying packet with any other commands you have for me, they shall be punctually obeyed.

Postscript.—The Duchess of Hamilton acquainted me when I parted from London how much concern your Lordship had shown to get justice done to the family of Hamilton in their pretensions to Chateauherault in France. I return you my most humble thanks, and am persuaded the tutors or guardians of the young Duke of Hamilton will return their thanks to you at our first meeting.

DR. JOHN STEARNE, Bishop of Dromore, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, May 5—I am assured by my worthy friend and successor in the deanery of St. Patrick's [Swift] that your Lordship did me the honour of appearing for me to her Majesty for the bishopric of Dromore, and I return you my most humble and hearty thanks for it.

This convinces me that I stand fair in your Lordship's opinion, and that you are fully satisfied by some advantageous character, which I presume my friends have given me, that I have always been steady to the interest of the Established Church, etc.

The REV. JOSEPH BINGHAM to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1713, May 7. Winchester—Knowing your Lordship to be a patron and encourager of poor students, and understanding by Dr. Gastrell and Mr. Nelson that the work of the Antiquities of the Church, which I am engaged in, has your approbation, I take this opportunity by the the hands of my good friend, Dr. Arbuthnot, to return my humble thanks for your kind opinion of me, and withal to acquaint you with my little circumstances in the world. I have now for almost these twenty years been labouring hard at this work upon the encouragement of a small living of about 100*l.* per annum, which Dr. Radcliff was pleased to bestow upon me. My family is now increased to six children, and I have some poor relations that depend also entirely upon my charity, and though we live at present with decency, yet I cannot pretend out of so short an income to make any future provision for my family. All I have been able to spare is 200*l.*, which I put into the two last lotteries, but with no great success, Providence not designing my preferment to come that way. The Bishop of Winchester has lately given me another living, but I must live two years to see any benefit from that, and if I die before the first harvest, I shall only be 100*l.* the worse for it. The thing I should most have desired was a prebend in the church of Winchester, where my business chiefly lies among the books of that library; but I see little hopes of being ever gratified or accommodated in that which is most convenient for me, there being many others always ready to step in before me. Since therefore I cannot obtain what would be most agreeable and serviceable to my studies, I am forced to look out a little farther; and it may be in your power to bestow a preferment upon me in some church which may answer my design as well as this. I will not pretend to prescribe to your Lordship, but only say, that as your own good literature and inclination to studies, amidst so much business, disposes you to encourage men of industry, so whatever encouragement you will please to give to my poor labours (which will always be for the service of God and his church) shall ever be gratefully acknowledged by me.

LORD JOHNSTONE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, May [9-]20, N.S. Paris—I have been here only a short while, ut long enough to discover it will be less expensive, more for my ease and advantage, and answer better the design of my coming into France, that I should go somewhere into the country and live, till I have your orders to return into England, which I intend to do if I have your permission for it, and you are pleased at the same time to change my credit from Mr. Prior, and give me one upon Sir Richard Cantillon or

any other banker here, with orders to forward it as I have occasion. This would ease Mr. Prior of the trouble, and be so great a convenience to me that I am afraid without it the appointment may prove entirely ineffectual, which I am persuaded is very much contrary to your intentions; but in case it should happen, I shall be obliged immediately to return and show you a disagreeable melancholy phiz: and that I humbly hope you'll be so good as to prevent, by granting me the favour I ask, which will make me extremely easy, and leave me no trouble or disturbance, but an impatient desire of being of some use and service to you.

The Earl of Morton to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, May 11. Kirkwall in Orkney—Since I came here I have done everything I was capable of to promote her Majesty's service, and to take away all divisions that have happened amongst the gentlemen, vassals, and ministers, within this country, and I make no doubt that in a short time they will be all entirely devoted to her Majesty.

I beg leave to put you in mind of the fisheries, which are so great and good a public concern, and I believe there is no place so fit and so well situate for a fishery and trade as Orkney and Shetland. The encouraging and protecting so good a work will much increase the Queen's revenue and enrich her dominions. This may be sufficiently known by the immense riches the Dutch have made by their fishing on these coasts.

For effecting this design I must remind you of the representation laid before the Queen and Cabinet Council for establishing a garrison in Shetland, and repairing the fort at Bressa sound, which is one of the best harbours in Europe.

I am sorry I should have the occasion to tell your Lordship that her Majesty has not a house in this country. The farmers and collectors of her Majesty's rents, by their negligence, suffered two of her houses in Orkney and one in Shetland to go to ruin, so that there is nothing left but old walls.

I have written more fully to the Earl of Mar, and beg your countenance and assistance.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, May 12. Edinburgh—The General Assembly ended yesterday, and have carried with all the duty to her Majesty. and moderation could have been wished for, of which Mr. Carstares and the Moderator give your Lordship particular accounts. All the Assembly were much concerned at Mr. Scrimgeour's being made professor of divinity at St. Andrews, and designed to address her Majesty about it, but I told them privately that was not so fit as to desire me to lay that affair before her Majesty; the Moderator has given it in writing, which is transmitted too.

If her Majesty pleases to give a new commission to a professor of divinity, which may narrate that her Majesty, having granted one to Mr. Scrimgeour, was not then acquainted that he was not a divine, or in holy orders, therefore, etc., it would give a great deal of satisfaction. There is one Mr. Chalmbers *(sic)*, minister of Kilwinning, who I am

well informed is qualified every way for that post; he is known to the Earl of Mar. I have writ for Mr. Scrimgeour, but he is not yet come to me. When I see him I shall try what will satisfy him.

There is a young man called Mr. Singat that made an appeal from the Assembly to the House of Lords in a very insolent manner on false grounds, from whom they have taken his licence to preach; there is a memorial of it which is also transmitted.

I writ to you in my last that the Synod of Perth and Stirling had appointed the Presbybery of Dunkeld to ordain Mr. Menzies minister of Dal. The Assembly ordered a visit to it, and I as sheriff ordered a party of forty or fifty men to hinder the Presbytery to enter that church, which when the Presbytery found they could not enter, did ordain him for another part of the parish, both contrary to the Act of Parliament, for he had no presentation, and contrary to the Assemblies Act to stop his ordination. Your Lordship sees what good designs those persons have had who have procured a delay to the Queen's confirming my rights.

I have heard nothing from you in answer to the two I writ by two expresses. I am now heartily wearied with Kirk affairs, and lest I weary you also shall say no more about them, but wish the Queen would be pleased to grant me a commission to the Barons of Exchequer, with any of the nobility and Lords of Session her Majesty thinks fit, to name the ministers and give presentations within her Majesty's rights of patronage, which would prevent recommendations from others who are but ill judges of qualifications of ministers.

The Duke of Atholl to the Earl of Oxford.

1713, May 12. Edinburgh—I go to the country to-morrow, where I have much reason to be for my health after so much hurry and fatigue I have had. I shall make it my business to recommend fit persons against the next elections; but having no assistance, and the Whig party being very diligent, and the Duke of Roxburgh and the Earl of Ilay being now here, I humbly think it will be necessary that the Queen order some she has confidence in to come here to concur with me. I should think the Earl of Mar, Earl Kinnoull, and Lord Balmarino, or any two of them, may be of great use.

Thomas Archer to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, May 15—Pursuant to your commands I enclose a draft of the ground desired by the commissioners for the site of a church. It is a corner of the park over against Devonshire House that would be beautified by such a structure to terminate the houses, and it would put a stop to any further buildings on that side, and is not above an acre. The impossibility of finding another site in this part of the town, which though it lies near St. James's Church is in St. Martin's parish, has forced the commissioners to apply to you to intercede with the Queen for her approval of it.

Postscript.—The prejudice that Devonshire House would receive by such a building is the greatest objection.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Concerning a church to be built over against Devonshire House. The Queen does not approve that suggestion."

The Rev. William Wisheart to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, May 18. Edinburgh—The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland were much affected when they were informed that Mr. Alexander Scrimzeor *(sic)*, professor of philosophy in the old College of St. Andrew's, has got her Majesty's presentation to be professor of divinity in the new College of that University, he not being a minister nor having obtained any degrees in divinity nor undergone any trial, or given any manner of proof of his fitness or capacity for that weighty and considerable charge, and they have entreated the Duke of Atholl to lay their case before her Majesty. They have also put into his Grace's hand to be laid before the Queen a memorial of the case of Mr. William Dugud, who had her Majesty's presentation to the parish church of Burnt Island, which fully sets forth his disrespectful and undutiful behaviour to the judicatories of this church, and even to the General Assembly in presence of her Majesty's High Commissioner; and the Assembly's necessary and just proceedings against him.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, May 26—I have now company with me at dinner, but would not omit saying this to your Lordship, I am very desirous to lay hold of all occasions, to take measures with your Lordship for the good of my country, and the security of the Protestant succession. I have no doubt but my friends will concur with your Lordship in those points, and I beg leave to receive your commands to wait upon you, and receive your directions, what is to be done in this nice juncture.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, May 27—I have made further progress in that matter, and you may be assured of being effectually supported in the maintaining the Protestant succession and the Union. I shall wait upon you to-morrow at St. James's with an earnest desire on my part, and sufficient authority from others, to make a perfect union with your Lordship to support the true interest of our country under your directions.

[Col. James Graham to the Earl of Oxford.]

[1713,] May 27—You know the hardships I lie under. I know you will assist me, because you have often said so. If I cannot immediately put some stop to the violence I am threatened with, when the House is up, I am ruined for ever. Wherefore I desire what favour you intend me, to do it out of hand, that I may begin to try and treat with these cannibals. Let me be represented to you how some people please; your Lordship shall find me on all occasions firm and respectful to your interest and service. I am not yet so old as to turn quite a fool.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, May 28—I should be wanting to the confidence and favour your Lordship showed me in your last letter, if I did not acquaint you that I have so far discoursed some of my friends as to be able to assure you that your Lordship may depend upon their being ready to concur with your Lordship, if you think fit to oppose the wild pro-

ceeding with which we are threatened. I am ready to attend your Lordship at St. James's, or any where else you shall appoint, if you really think I can serve you, and desire I should.

The Earl of Dundonald to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, [May 28-]June 7, N.S. Paris—Applies for his assistance to be appointed one of the sixteen peers of Scotland in the ensuing election.

Lord Lexington to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, June [1-]12, N.S. Madrid—Not having received any answer to those several [letters] I have done myself the honour to write to you, I take the liberty to trouble you again about my own private affairs, and in the first place I beg you to get me recalled, and that I have liberty to leave this place the beginning of September. I told my Lord Bolingbroke at large my reasons, one of which is so substantial, that I am sure you would not have me stay under such a lash, besides my health, and the concerns of my family in such disorder as I have left them; the second is that you would be pleased to order me some money, otherwise I shall be in very great straits, for by the time this comes to you, there will near three quarters be due to me, besides all my bills of extraordinaries, and upon my word I have spent since I came hither in eight months' time 5,500*l*., so that you will easily believe I shall soon be at the length of my tether, without you are pleased to consider me soon. Since I writ to my Lord Dartmouth I have received a letter from the Secretary in answer to one I writ to him, by which they absolutely refuse us any further extension of commerce, either in Europe or America, which is contrary both to the Treaty I signed, and to what is mentioned and referred to in both the Treaty I signed, and that my Lord Bolingbroke has signed, and to the most solemn assurances; and they have all along kept us in hopes, and fed us with several conferences, by which I never was in doubt till this moment but that we should obtain what we had demanded, or the best part at least. But now they refer us to everything as it was in Charles II.'s time. I have sent Mr. Guilligan to Count Bergheyck to expostulate with him, and to know the meaning of it, and when he comes back, I will give you a further account.

Mr. Guilligan is come back, and the Count bids him assure me that the Secretary did not know what he writ when he sent me the letter, and that I might rest satisfied all should be, at least as to the chiefest matters, as we could wish, except the demands for America, as being what they must grant to other nations, if they do to us. I beg your pardon for the mistakes in my letter, but 'tis very late, and I was almost distracted when I received the letter. This will serve you for a hint what orders to give my Lords at Utrecht, in case they should deceive us at last, which a small time will now show.

Dr. Hugh Todd to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, June 4. Carlisle—Here is a report that our Dean, Dr. Smalridge, is like to be promoted to a better and more convenient deanery. If this be true I make bold to offer my service to your Lordship that I may succeed him. If I had the honour to be promoted I should be able to do more service to her Majesty in these parts.

Of learning you are the best judge. I have several tracts about matters of antiquity, which I believe would not be unacceptable to you, I think to publish them whenever I have more leisure and encouragement to do it.

William Higgs to Dr. Chamberlen.

1713, June 4—Asking to be made a prebend of Westminster, though still only a student in divinity, and adding as instances in excuse of his ambition that St. Ambrose was chosen Bishop of Milan before he was baptized, the clergy of Ravenna elected Severus, a poor weaver and not in orders, for their prelate, and James the First gave the deanery of St. Paul's to Mr. Donne, a poor layman much in debt, who was ordained afterwards.

Earl Ilay to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, June 7—I was just now surprised with the great honour of your Lordship's letter. My brother went yesterday morning out of town, and does not return till to-morrow morning. You are pleased to condescend to say that you don't know what ill offices have been done you, and that you have the satisfaction of your own mind that you have not deserved his ill opinion. I would not be guilty of this presumption in repeating your words, were it not that they are the best I can offer to express my thoughts to you in my brother's name and my own. I am afraid indeed very ill offices have been done you, I have been long sensible of it, I saw them begin, and have endeavoured constantly to discharge my duty in giving notice of it, with as much sincerity as you were once perhaps pleased to think I served you. The ill offices I mean, were the private malicious insinuations and attempts to give you a bad opinion of the most faithful of your friends. At first I struggled with every little appearance of this nature, but when the malice and success of my enemies became equal, I gave way to the torrent, and retreated into the secret pride of innocence. If you were now to read over a long letter I troubled you with last summer upon this subject, you would perceive how much I then foresaw what is now perhaps approaching. I am very sensible how little I merit your regard, either in the shape of an enemy or a friend, as a friend I can do you little good, and as an enemy you can do me a great deal of harm; there is nobody more exposed than I am at present to the frowns of the Court, but the worst I have suffered already, I have been accused of disserving you with whom I was engaged. All that has been approved of in my brother has hardly been received otherwise than as so many instances of my not being able to mislead him; whenever he has been so unfortunate as to displease, there my influence is said to appear. This I have lain under a long time; and were it not that I have a private satisfaction in doing what I think right, of what use is it to be innocent? When first I was engaged in your service, and when you were pleased to think well of me, it was when you were unjustly oppressed by a prevailing party, and when I had more of the countenance of the Court than I have at present; if now, when you are at the head of the Administration, I have less the art to please, I must rest contented. If when worldly interest might have led me to betray you, I durst be honest, and when it leads me to serve you, I prove otherwise, sure my enemies who think so must in charity add fool to the character they

are pleased to give of me. I have had so seldom any opportunity of doing myself the honour to converse with you these two years, that I hope you'll pardon my saying so much in a letter, but upon what you were so kind as to say in yours, I thought it my duty to express myself the more fully upon this subject.

Dr. Robert South to the Earl of Oxford.

1713, June 8. Westminster Abbey—Could my present circumstances and condition in any degree come up to the gracious and surprising offer lately brought me from her Majesty, I should with the utmost gratitude and deepest humility cast myself at her royal feet, and with both arms embrace it.

But, alas! that answer which Alexander the Great once gave a soldier petitioning him for an office in his army may no less properly become her Majesty to my poor self (though not petitioning for, but prevented by her princely favour): "Friend," said he, "I own that I can give thee this place, but I cannot make thee fit for it." And this is my unhappy case. For having for now above these forty years, the best, the ablest, and most useful part of my age, not been thought fit by my superiors to serve the Crown or Church in any other way, or station, than what I have held hitherto, I cannot but in modesty (and even in respect to them), judge myself unworthy and unfit to serve them in any higher or greater post now; being grown equally superannuated to the active as well as enjoying part of life.

For age is not to be defied, nor forced by all that art or nature can do, to retreat one step backward. And even the richest spread table with the kindest invitations to it comes too late to one who has lost both his stomach and his appetite too.

In fine, my good Lord, after the utmost acknowledgment, duty, and devotion paid to the sacred fountain-head from which all this goodness flows, the same gratitude in the very next place commands me with the profoundest deference to own and bless that noble channel by which it has so liberally passed upon me.

Postscript.—Nothing afflicts me more than that I am disabled from bringing your honour these my acknowledgments (and many more with them) in person myself.

Anne, Countess Dowager of Sunderland, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, June 11—Asking him to obtain payment of the arrears to her grandsons, the sons of the Earl of Clancarty, of the pension of 1,000*l.* a year, granted to them by the Queen, there being now seven or eight quarters due to them, who are under the greatest distress how to answer their necessary expenses. The Queen sent word that payment should be made, and if Lord Oxford will speak to her he will be the author of preserving two young men of quality from begging their bread.

Colonel J. Graham to [the Earl of Oxford].

[1713,] June 13—Thanks is the least, but all I can return for your most seasonable favour. I wish every one you do good to may have as grateful a sense of it as I have. I know the straits you are in, nothing but the utmost necessity would have let me importune you as I have done.

I never presume to speak to you of public matters, but I see what I see; an old ape hath an old eye. I hope you will look about you, people will never think you act wisely till you act vigorously. I am sure no man living wishes better to you than I do.

DR. FRANCIS ATTERBURY to the EARL OF OXFORD.

[1713, June 13.] Chelsea. Saturday—I return your Lordship my humble thanks for the great favour and honour which by your means I am about to receive from the Queen, and will study, while I live, to make you all other returns in my power. It will, I think, be for your and for the public service that the differences at Christ Church should be healed in some measure before I leave it, I have therefore taken the first step, in order to this end, by sending Dr. Smalridge a general proxy, which he may make use of in all capitular matters, as he thinks fit. It shall be followed by all other advances on my side that are proper. I hope by this means so to dispose things that, when I go down the week after this next, we may meet and part easily. In the meantime my patent for Westminster is in such a forwardness, that I may be installed there on Tuesday; and must, therefore, beg the honour of being introduced by your Lordship to kiss the Queen's hand some time on Monday, if it suits with your convenience, and will wait upon you on Monday morning to know your pleasure in that respect.

I have one request which I desire to lay before you. My canonry of Exeter will not, upon confirmation, be in the gift of the Crown, but my prebend only, which is of a mean and inconsiderable value, when separated from the canonry. I had this preferment from the Bishop of Winchester, and should be glad, if your Lordship pleases, to wear it still, as a mark of his favour, and my obligations to him: with which I suppose also that the Bishop himself would not be ill pleased. It will be worth about six score pounds a year, *communibus annis*. The great loss I shall sustain at Christ Church of many hundred pounds, let us part never so easily there; and the great expense which my station at Westminster, if I live as I ought to do, will require, may excuse this application; the reasonableness of which is submitted to your Lordship, in whose opinion I shall entirely acquiesce.

DR. G. SMALRIDGE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, June 14. Christ Church—Expressing his pleasure at the appointment of Lord Harley's tutor, Dr. Terry, to the canonry vacated by his own appointment to the deanery of Christ Church, as he considered that he would be a useful member of the body, and there would be no danger of his being influenced to disturb the peace of the college and university.

SIR EDW[ARD] KNATCHBULL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, June 14. Hatch—I am very unfortunate if by all my attempts to serve your Lordship I can no way recommend myself to your favour, and after so long an expectation I hope I shall not be thought troublesome if I presume to remind you of the assurances you have been pleased to give me of your friendship; and being now engaged in a heavy election for this county, I do with submission think some plea

for an excuse in the liberty I take. Though the success of my undertaking is very apparent, your Lordship cannot but be sensible what a train of expense attends it, which I believe your justice will make a suitable return to, that I may no longer despair of what I hope I have deserved from your Lordship, as having been in the worst of times what some are only of late.

W. Bishop of Carlisle to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, June 15. Carlisle—I have this morning a very kind letter of congé from Mr. Dean Smalridge, telling me of his being to succeed Dr. Atterbury in the deanery of Christ Church, and crave leave to remind you of the memorial lately given in by Lord Lonsdale in favour of Mr. Thomas Tullie, my chancellor, to whom her Majesty was pleased to give repeated assurances of her favour on such an opportunity.

Thomas Coram to the Lord Treasurer.

1713, June 20—I attended your Lordship this morning with one of the disbanded officers, who offered the proposition for their desired settlement near New England. My intent was humbly to acquaint you the land they petition for hath been neglected by the Province of the Massachusetts, notwithstanding it is included in the charter granted them by King William, for in his reign they suffered his Majesty's fort of Pemequid to be taken, and destroyed by two French ships without any resistance, there being only a few half starved, ignorant fellows left to guard the said fort. The commander himself was inferior to any common carman, and they did not endeavour to re-settle the said land afterwards.

In the beginning of her Majesty's reign Colonel Dudley, the governor of the Massachusetts did (by order of her Majesty) require the General Assembly to rebuild the said fort, but the House of Representatives opposed it, and assigned their reasons for that it was without their own bounds, would be of no service to their Province, and it was in her Majesty's power to give the said land away after they should rebuild the fort. This is what I can assure you from my own certain knowledge, I being in New England at that time, as I had been some years before. I think it my duty to acquaint you herewith without loss of time, because I believe you will not hear it from any other (for Mr. Dummer their agent was then out of the country upon his travels), and the disbanded officers are in hopes of a noble settlement from your Lordship, which will not cost one quarter the expense that was laid out upon the Palatines, and that they may not be under the government of New England.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Mr. Coram (unknown)—about a settlement in Acadia."

Katharine, Duchess of Buckinghamshire, to the Earl of Oxford.

[1713, June 22 received]—I told my Lord at my return on Thursday night what your Lordship said relating to the Lords of the Council being examined. Had I thought it of consequence to have done it sooner, I would willingly have put off a journey which had more of complaisance than pleasure in it. It seems he was spoke to about it in the House, and thinking it of small consequence to you the meeting

proposed, and only the fancy of some others, he did not agree to it. If I did not mistake, your Lordship told me you thought objecting to the dropping the treason articles would come more properly from you on Monday. Now Lord North having desired the Lords might be summoned for to-day, Lord Duke, who could not get him to tell him what he intended, fancies that he may out of zeal ill-time some proposal, or that you told me of intending something to-day, which I forgot; though I would avoid making any sort of mistake if I could, yet I should never forgive myself the doing it on this occasion, therefore flatter myself I have not. I have not spoke of sending this letter, so if there is anything to be told my Lord before the House sits about my Lord North's intended proposal, pray let Lord Harley do it. I am sorry to find the good expressions flung out at some times by certain people have turned to no better effect, though I confess they never had the credit with me they found with honest Lawton. Lord Ca[ ]'s moderation one day, which I told Lady Ox[ford] of, was cleared up by his own affair coming on presently after. I shall not, I am sure it is unnecessary to, tell your Lordship of my zealous wishes for your meeting with a just success in this affair.

Postscript.—The Duke of B[uckingham] is resolved to refuse answering any of their questions, which is I suppose all which the meeting with the Lords of the Council was to produce.

I am ashamed of sending this scrawl, but am just going abroad with my Lord, and in a great hurry, which is my best excuse.

The Earl of Glasgow to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, June 26. Edinburgh—There is a body of our peers here in Scotland who commonly go under the name of Squadrone, that are now very uppish upon the prospect of the next election, expecting to be joined by some considerable persons of this country. For my own part I am entirely resolved to go into the Queen's measures as to the election, and for the Squadrone I must beg leave to say, that I can never believe that they, or any that will join them, will ever faithfully serve her Majesty, and the prerogative of the crown, and it were in my humble opinion most reasonable that our sixteen peers that are at London, who enjoy favours and good posts from her Majesty, should plainly declare their inclinations to her before they leave London, and come for Scotland; for it would be very discouraging to her Majesty's good and loyal subjects here to see persons come from London clothed with her Majesty's authority and loaded with her favours, and join any party or faction here against her interest.

I hope your goodness will pardon this presumption and freedom, seeing it proceeds from faithful duty to your Lordship and her Majesty's service, for I am determined while I live faithfully and sincerely to serve her Majesty, and to serve your Lordship's interest so far as I am capable in opposition to any other interest whatsoever.

J ——— S ——— to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, June 26. [Liverpool]—A letter happening accidentally into my hands, containing the following lines, I thought it my duty to discover a person of such treacherous principles, who, although being raised to such honour under her Majesty, yet makes no scruple of railing against the Church's upholders, and owns his chiefest interest lies in the coming in of the Pretender.

Copy Annexed.

April 2, 1713.

I don't know whether you have heard that I am turned out of my place in the Works for writing a letter to the mayor of Woodstock, in which I say the Duke of Marlborough has been bitterly and barbarously persecuted for these two years past, in which I only meant the continual and daily libels and pamphlets which pelted him, but some High Church members of Parliament would needs have it I meant the House of Commons, and so have pushed the matter to my being turned out. I believe I could have prevented it, if I would have made my submission to those High Church country blockheads, but that I would on no terms do.

However, I would not have you concerned at it, for if the Pretender comes in I shall get more by it than they that made it their business or were employed to turn me out. I am, &c., John Vanbrugh.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Unknown, June 26, 1713. R[eceived] June 29, postmarked, Liverpool, concerning Mr. Vanbrugh."

JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, June 28. Petty France, Westminster—I trouble you with a memorial signed by the Archbishop of Thebes in such a style and language as he could get his meaning expressed. 'Tis very bad French, but you will easily spell out his deplorable condition; and if that does not procure him anything from the Queen it will at least, I hope, procure my pardon, who neither invited him over, nor sought him out when he came, nor ever gave him the least encouragement. On the contrary, I have all along intimated to him how little he was to expect, either from a collection (as he expected) among the people or from the public treasury; and have hitherto hindered him from casting himself at your Lordship's feet, and from lying at your door with all his company till you gave him some relief.

I would neither help him nor speak for him if I suspected he was a "cheat," as my Lord of Sarum [Burnet] said, a hard word of a poor stranger that is come from Egypt for the Queen's charity; but I hope his Lordship means it no more than Joseph did of his brethren, and I hope Consul Farringdon's testimony is as good and as strong an evidence of the contrary as what Jacob's children could produce to the prime minister of Pharaoh.

The DUKE OF RICHMOND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, [June 28-]July 8, N.S. Paris—Give me leave to thank you for all your favours, and if you will add one more to them be as sincere a friend to the Duchess of Portsmouth as you have been to me. She has great pretensions, and very just, but she is not unreasonable, therefore I beg to know what is fitting for her to do, and when it may be consistent and convenient for her to pay her respects to the Queen.

[VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

[1713, June]—I am heartily sorry to hear of your Lordship's indisposition.

The Dutch had notice of the throwing out the Commerce Bill before our letters got into Holland. The news was public at the Hague on

Monday, and the packet did not arrive till Tuesday, they are overjoyed at it, and laugh openly at us. They are going to take off the small duties they have on French goods, particularly on silks, that they may the better carry on that trade for us.

Indeed, my Lord, we make a despicable figure in the world. You have retrieved many a bad game in your time; for God's sake make one push for government.

I wish you health and everything else that is desirable.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, July [1-]11, N.S. Utrecht—I am very glad of this opportunity to have the honour of felicitating you with the signing of her Majesty's peace with Spain, and to give your Lordship at the same time a short account of my little negotiation here. The first effect of several conferences was, the bringing the States plenipotentiaries to prevail with their lords and masters at the Hague to come to two resolutions on the 9th of May, the one to remove all comptoirs and offices of receipt of custom, from betwixt the old Spanish Netherlands and new conquests, both of export and import, and to declare that all the trade of Great Britain, having once paid the duty of entry at Ostend or Nieuport, should be free from all other duties, in and through the Spanish Netherlands and new conquests. The second resolution was, that all goods and manufacture of Great Britain passing through the Spanish Netherlands and new conquests towards France, Germany, or any other country, should only pay once, and for all duties of import and export, two and a half per cent. of the value, commonly known in these parts by the name of the right or duty of transit; by which two resolutions the trade of her Majesty's dominions to all the new conquests and barrier and farther were exempted from a duty of export of about four per cent., going out of the Spanish Netherlands, and also from a new duty of import into the new conquests of four per cent., at least, both which duties though imposed on the British trade ever since the reduction of the Spanish Netherlands after the battle of Ramillies, the Dutch trade has been ever free from.

The next part of the negotiation was to regulate the foot on which the duties were, or are, to be paid, and to see that the British trade should nowhere pay more than the Dutch trade. It is almost incredible the many projects and alterations that have been made on this subject, proceeding from groundless and unreasonable chicaneries of the Dutch, wherever they could lay hold of a word in a treaty for their advantage, and when they saw that they could not make me depart from the true interest of my country, and that I did persist on having every particular benefit and freedom which they had, and which any former treaty would allow me to insist upon, they endeavoured to divide and raise a difference between my Lord Strafford and me, telling his Excellency that I pretended that my commission was independent of him, and that I had made some reflections, or rather remarks, upon one or two articles granted them by his Lordship in a conference where I was not admitted. It is true I did make some remarks when the projects of these Dutch articles were communicated to me, little knowing that my Lord Strafford had consented to them, but that was soon set right again, and as my behaviour has been entirely agreeable to my Lord Privy Seal, by all I can learn, either from himself or any other, so I hope and believe that my Lord Strafford will do me the justice to say that I have done my

duty, and that I did not undertake a thing which I do not understand. For the rest I am very willing to bear with his Lordship's humours, and to humour him in everything, not doubting he will allow me still to give my opinion freely in what concerns the trade of the Spanish Netherlands, and wherever it is a matter of state I shall not pretend to meddle with it.

The provisional treaty made with the Dutch consists only of seven articles. The first is the equality of duties to be paid by both nations, viz., by the Queen's subjects at Ostend and Nieuport not to exceed in any manner what the Dutch pay at or by the Scheldt, and the Sas or Swin, and that this duty shall not exceed what was paid in the year 1680, which is the most reasonable and easy foot that we ever were upon. The second article is that the duty of transit or transire shall be equal to both, and not exceed two and half per cent. The third article is that all duties exacted on importation to the new conquests or barrier shall be taken off, not only from the trade of the Queen's subjects, but also from all the product and trade of her Majesty's dominions in whatever hands the same may be. The fourth article is, that the duties of consumption in the barrier shall be the same to both nations, and that the product of Great Britain, etc., shall be under no higher gabelles or duties of consumption or imports than the product and trade of the States dominions. The fifth article contains a regulation of the duties of export on the foot as it was in 1680. The sixth that the convoy money which is one per cent. on the import, and half per cent. on the export, shall be removed if the same was not in use in 1680, which is not yet determined; and the seventh article is about the due execution of the six former articles which will still occasion several conferences, for notwithstanding the two resolutions taken by the States on the 9th of May, our merchants still complain of the double duties demanded of them, and the States are not so forward in executing what they so firmly promised and agreed upon, as is to be wished, or might have been expected. The address of the House of Commons to the Queen to keep her possessions in Flanders till the trade be settled and what is agreed upon be put in execution, is very just and necessary, and the deputies of Flanders and Brabant, who have been here, had only power to receive and hear the proposals which I made to them for the ease and safety of the British trade, and not to determine or agree to anything, but to make their report to the Council of States at Brussels, where these things only can be obtained, and the privileges of the British subjects at Bruges and Ostend must be obtained, partly from the Grand Council of Flanders at Ghent and partly at Bruges itself, being city privileges and freedoms; and those to be obtained from the Council of Flanders at Ghent are the reparation of the quay and harbour of Ostend, the deepening of the canal between Ostend and Bruges, and the reduction if possible of the tonnage, so that when it may be thought fit for me to go there to demand these things and to see that the agreement with the Dutch is put in execution at the Custom houses, with such other regulations as can be obtained in Brabant for a future settlement and preservation of the trade of her Majesty's subjects, to be confirmed afterwards by the Emperor or governor of the Spanish Netherlands, I shall be ready to go there to see to obtain, and to have all performed as it ought to be.

The Spanish peace being now concluded, and its requiring two months to have the ratification come back, during which time my Lord Privy Seal will have no business here, if her Majesty will be pleased to allow my Lord Privy Seal to go up to Brussels for that two

months only, I am confident, all that can be reasonably demanded for the benefit and safety of the British trade may be obtained by his Lordship's industry and good judgment of business of that nature in which he has so well succeeded wherever he has been before. In that country, where I will have the honour of being with him, I am no stranger either to the people or their methods, but am morally sure of the best advice and information that can be obtained, I could not but hope for success in every thing which the Queen's affairs may require there. I mean that my Lord Privy Seal could not fail of obtaining what is necessary in matters of State, and I could hardly fail of being truly informed of what is necessary to be obtained for the security of trade, which my Lord by his authority would be sure to obtain. I wish with all my heart that your Lordship may be of my opinion. I am almost sure of my Lord Privy Seal's consenting if it be her Majesty's pleasure, for he is wearied of this place, and will be still more desirous to be out of it when he has no business, which has been his only diversion here, and my Lord Strafford being at the Hague, and only a very few ministers here, his Lordship will be able to do all that seems yet undetermined between the Spaniards and Portuguese without my Lord Privy Seal's assistance.

I humbly entreat your Lordship's determination as speedily as possible that no time may be lost, and when my Lord Privy Seal has once settled matters at Brussels if her Majesty so thinks good, whoever may be thereafter appointed her Majesty's agent or resident at Brussels will have a plain rule to walk by, and I hope your Lordship will continue your goodness in providing bread for me where you may think me most capable of serving you, having no other view nor dependence.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, July 1. Huntingtower—I have been much concerned of late to hear that our Scots affairs above have happened to prove uneasy to the Queen or troublesome to your Lordship, and I must own that the malt tax being laid on Scotland occasions much grumbling and discontent, and I am sure if you can by your prudence fall on some expedient to mitigate this burden to Scotland it will be better service to the Queen than all it can amount to.

When these affairs were depending it was not proper to propose an address of thanks to the Queen for the peace, but on Monday last I called a meeting of noblemen and freeholders of this shire, and began an address to the Queen, of which your Lordship has a copy enclosed, which I should be satisfied to know if it prove acceptable. I was the most desirous this should be done, because there are several ministers in this shire have omitted their duty, both to God and the Queen, in not observing the thanksgiving on the day appointed by her Majesty's Proclamation, which is so great a contempt of her authority that it seems necessary to make some of them examples in every shire as far as our law will allow. If this be thought proper the first step is that the Queen appoint one of her Secretaries or President of the Council to write to the several sheriffs to send a list of the ministers who have neglected their duty in their several shires, and then her Majesty may order them to be summoned before the Lords of Justiciary at Edinburgh, or at their next circuit court. The trust I am honoured

with as being of her Majesty's Council and sheriff of this shire makes me think it my duty to acquaint her Majesty of any contempt of her lawful commands in this shire.

I have written to my son James to come to Scotland to get to be member of the House of Commons, if the Queen allows him leave from his post; if chosen he will be in a better capacity to show his duty to the Queen and his gratitude to your Lordship.

My son Tullibardine has acquainted me that he has received the money due to me last year, for which I return her Majesty my humble thanks and your Lordship for ordering it.

I have not heard that the warrant for my salary as Privy Seal is yet come down which you were pleased to say should be paid in Scotland. I design if please God to go to Edinburgh next week for eight or ten days. If your Lordship has any commands for me while there, they shall be obeyed. You were once speaking of sending me a cypher to write by, which may be of use now the elections are approaching.

J[OHN] MACKY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 1. Antwerp—After being disgracefully thrown out of my employment at Dover by Lord Bolingbroke, my house and goods seized by my creditors, and for the security of my person forced to fly my country, I implore your compassion to a poor distressed man that hath worn his person and estate out in the service of his country. If I can merit your further favour by services at Hanover and Frankfort, where you know I have good interest, you need only lay your commands upon me.

DR. FRANCIS ATTERBURY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1713, July 2.] Thursday—I shall be consecrated [Bishop of Rochester] on Sunday, and ready to do homage either on that day or whenever else your Lordship pleases.

The EARL OF KINNOULL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 2. Pall Mall—I was surprised last day when I came to town to find the Duke of Montrose gone for Scotland, from whence I conclude he is not to forsake his old evil ways and come in to the Queen's service. I am heartily sorry for it; I wish it had been otherwise. Some may perhaps think that this will make Argyll and his brother [Ilay] now necessary to the Court; I beg leave to think quite otherwise. I think it makes it more necessary to turn them out of all they can be turned out of, and that more thorough measures be taken in order to make a right election of peers for the next Parliament, which is certainly of the greatest importance for the Queen's service as matters stand at present, for I begin to be of opinion that the House of Peers being right or wrong next session does very much depend upon the elections of the Scots peers. A right election there will have influence upon your weak and wavering peers here, and bring those right who are ready to sway as the bush sways. If so then that a right election of the Scots peers is so necessary to make a right House of Peers, and that the turning out of those two brothers is so necessary for

making a right election in Scotland, for I acknowledge I think it impossible to make a right election if they are not turned out of all you can take from them, then I hope there will be no demur in doing what is so absolutely necessary. I shall not now enter into the detail of what further is necessary to be done in order to a right election, only in general tell you my weak opinion, which is that if the Malt tax be set to rights, as I hope you intend to do, those two brothers laid aside, and such other things done as the Queen will certainly think both just and reasonable for raising and supporting the authority of the government in Scotland, I have no doubt but her Majesty may have a right election of peers there, though I assure you not without care and pains.

JOHN, ARCHBISHOP OF YORK, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 11. Bishopthorp—On behalf of Mr. Nic. Wadding, formerly a papist, and now a member of the Church of England; and asking his assistance for the Archbishop of Thebes, who had lately come out of Egypt upon a good design, and was in such miserable circumstances that he would be turned out of his lodgings if he had not some money sent him.

JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 11. Petty France, Westminster—I sent honest Mr. Vanderecken to the poor distressed Archbishop of Thebes with the joyful news of the Queen's bounty to him, and it was a most seasonable cordial to him and his companions, for I believe they wanted bread. I acquainted him it would be a hundred guineas, in which I hope I did not mistake your Lordship; besides, as I remember, the old Archbishop of Armenia had the same sum. When you send him the money I hope you will make it the condition that he leaves England as soon as possible, otherwise he and his people will eat off their heads before they can reach another prince's dominions. I hope, too, that the difficulties he has met with will be a warning how he or any more Greeks come over hither.

The Archbishop has brought over a letter to the Queen from his principal the Patriarch of Alexandria, and some little presents of monks' work, viz., the figures of our Saviour and his Apostles, curiously carved in wood, &c., which he humbly beseeches to lay at her Majesty's feet.

DR. H[UGH] TODD to ————.

1713, July 18. Carlisle—You will please to receive the enclosed copy of an address, which I drew up at the desire of some justices and others, at the sessions here. It was approved by the Sheriff, the Recorder, and several who perused it, only Mr. Lawson, who is newly come down into the country, and speaks with unaccountable freedom of the ministry, did not like some distinguishing expressions in it, as Hereditary Right, Advantages of Trade, and the suppression of Antimonarchial principles, etc.; and thereupon ordered another address to be drawn out of it, in a much lower style; this he and others signed, and he sent it to Sir Chr. Musgrave.

The original (of which the enclosed is a copy) was signed by the sheriff, some justices, and a good many others, and is sent up to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it being affirmed by the Recorder of Kendal that you were expected at Levens in a week's time.

Mr. Lawson speaks with such freedom against the peace that many think he is not right in his head. He affirms that the nation is four millions a year loser by the peace, etc., in such terms as some of the justices were ready to call him to an account for his extravagant and seditious assertions. If any proper person would appear for the country, he would not be chosen. The sessions afford little news. Lawson says he has made several alterations in the commission of peace. If any clergy are added you will please to see (if not too late) that I may be of the number. Mr. Brisco is made country keeper, with the allowance of two hundred pounds per annum; Berchenhill has had a fit of an apoplexy, and therefore did not desire the place. It is not sure that Lord Thanet will accept a commission of Lord Lieutenant, why may not you (if the matter be so, as that noble Lord refuse it) prevail that Lord Berkshire, who is like to succeed to Levens, be made Lord Lieutenant of both counties; such a trust would enlarge and establish your interest.

Since I wrote this, I find myself obliged to you for presenting our address, with so much respect to us. I had a letter from our Dean, who says that it was offered to him to keep Carlisle with Christ Church for some time, but as soon as his patents are at Oxford, which he expected that night, he would resign the Deanery here. If there be probability of success, you and the Bishop of Rochester might prevail that the patent might be sent to me by the post as it is to him and what money the Bishop might tie down for it should immediately be transmitted to him; and I might come to town to wait on the Queen after the summer. I entirely depend upon your favour.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, July 18—I am among those who look on the times with grief and indignation, to see the violence and rage of a party drive men who at the same time make a profession of religion, and call themselves Christians, to such dreadful extremes that the ruin of their country and of all that should be dear to honest men is of no value when in competition with their party designs. To see these men act the same injurious extravagant things which they always condemned in others; and while they reproach the ministry for joining with Jacobites to keep them out, they plainly confess they would join with any men and in any measures to get in. The Scots, however weak and misled, are honester than these even in that folly of rejecting the thanksgiving, for these mock men in keeping the day, while they insult those who appointed it, and mock God in meeting to give him thanks for the peace, while they curse the peace in their hearts, which they seem to give thanks for. It is with horror I mention to your Lordship their treatment of the Queen. How visibly they discover in their very faces a secret satisfaction at any indisposition her Majesty may suffer, eagerly enlarge the account, and report every trifle of that kind to be fatal; as if her Majesty's dangers, which make an honest man's heart sink at the very thought of them, were their pleasure. They appear disappointed when they find the hellish hopes are but imaginary, and the confusions they expect are delayed.

God Almighty for ever disappoint them and grant her Majesty may outlive, not so much the men, but the temper, and may see the spirit of faction and fury allayed, and all our storms calmed in a general peace, both at home and abroad.

I hope you will believe I am not an idle spectator of these things, and though I was backward to trouble you while the hurry of the House lasted, I cannot but renew my humble petition to your Lordship, that I may be directed in my opposing these things in such manner and place as I may be most useful.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Mr. Goldsmith, July 18, 1713. Faction."

E[LIZABETH DUCHESS OF] HAMILTON, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 19—This Address was sent to me, and I design my son William to present it, and Mr. Bland. I hope you will do them the honour to introduce them, and that you'll let me know what time they are to attend her Majesty.

I've made inquiry, and find the Duke of Arg[yll] at last gives out he does not go northward this year, he's a well wisher to Lord Dundonald's election, though not an open promoter of it, but employs his emissaries. Lord Dunmore is one who is very solicitous, and one Cornelius Kennedy, a creature of Lord Stair's and a perverter of Lord Marischall's principles. If your Lordship will examine these matters youll find I've good ground for what I say and more, laying aside my private dislike to some people. I believe your Lordship will find there's a better understanding than is suspected between some to get in those they think they can manage in order to support themselves by being formidable. If you remember who preached this doctrine to me last winter you'll the easier guess where I am. This what I tell you now, my Lord, I can assure you is not upon bare suspicion, for the formidable peer and a great lady used to government meet often. I could tell you a great many circumstances to make out what I've written, but I've said enough for you to make your own use of, and I hope to convince you that I am &c.

DR. GEORGE SMALRIDGE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 19. Christ Church, Oxford—I was installed in my deanery yesterday, and with my brethren in chapter expedited several matters which had been too long delayed. It will be of great benefit to the college as well as to me that I should soon have such a successor in my canonry as will support the office of sub-dean, for which no one is better qualified than he whom you in your great goodness to this society design to send to us.

Postscript.—I have prepared a resignation of the deanery of Carlisle, and will send it up to be enrolled in Chancery.

LORD LANSDOWNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 20—I am obliged to trouble you with a request that one James Prideaux, the present postmaster of Camelford, may be removed. He is an inveterate enemy to the present Government, has set me at open defiance these seven years, treated me publicly with ill language,

braved me to my face with the utmost insolence, stopped my letters, insomuch that I am forced to correspond with that town no other way but by particular expresses. When he has been advertised of this behaviour, he has answered that I might do my worst, he had a better interest than myself with the Postmaster-General, and he defied me. If I should endure this open insolence any longer, I must either be thought very tame, or to have very little credit. Your Lordship will, therefore, forgive me if I insist with the utmost earnestness that this man be turned out, and that Mr. William Carew, of the same town, a gentleman of a good family, nearly related to Sir William Carew, and a man of good principles, be put in his place.

Dr. George Smalridge to [Lord Harley].

1713, July 22. Christ Church, Oxford.—I will not send up the resignation of the Deanery of Carlisle till my Lord Treasurer shall order it, but should be glad to receive his commands quickly, because I have always declared an intention to resign my first deanery when I should be possessed of a second, and am afraid of suffering in my reputation by not doing it.

I thought it would not become me to interest myself in recommending any one to succeed me at Carlisle, and therefore have studiously declined doing or saying anything that might look that way. But since my opinion of Mr. Gibbon is asked I should be unjust to him in not giving it. He had a very good character amongst the gentry and clergy in the North, as one that was well affected to the constitution, of a gentleman-like behaviour, courteous and hospitable, and of a quiet and peaceable temper.

Matthew Decker to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, [July 22-]August 1, N.S. Amsterdam—It was a particular grief to me, when I came away that I could not have the honour of receiving your commands. Your indisposition at that time (for which God be thanked that it is altered), and the multitude of business I suppose have been the reason. If I should have had the happiness of taking my leave, I should have taken at the same time the freedom to inform your Lordship of what I heard abroad, particularly concerning the person of your Lordship, and that I knew those people who wished you ill had no greater pleasure than when they think your Lordship and the great people in power at this side of the water should differ. Nay, I should have advanced further, and would (with great submission) have been so plain as to tell you that this is almost the only game they have at present to play by which they satisfy numbers of the party with idle hopes. Then I would have asked your Lordship if I was capable of rendering you either in this or any other thing some service, with a positive assurance that no present or future prospect of interest or profit was the occasion of this, but that it came only from a heart full of gratitude and true respect to your dear person, whom I cannot but wish all worldly happiness and success in your great undertaking.

Of all this I have been deprived. However, I have not been wanting in what I always think my duty, that is, to speak with some great man of this country of which I have had the honour of seeing several, as well here some of the Burgomasters, as at the Hague some of the States,

and must confess that I was very much pleased to find them much contrary to what I was informed by the other party, who contrive every post as much as is possible to insinuate to the people in what an ill state of health her Majesty is, and the general conclusion comes out that she can't live three months longer. Everybody I saw did presently make me this question. I told them that all was false, and that her Majesty (God be thanked) had no other illness but now and then a fit of the gout. I found that this report is what those gentlemen now chiefly study, in order to keep as great a mistrust and defiance between your Lordship and those in power here, as is possible; but since these three months have continued for these three years, I find they begin not only to be weary of this, but much inclined to come in a perfect understanding and true friendship with your Lordship, and the present ministry. Mons. Fagel, with whom I had the honour to speak, and who is one intrusted in all the secret correspondence of this State, did express himself to this effect several times, but as I had no instruction from your Lordship nor not knowing whether I might make use of your name I discoursed only in general, saying it was my opinion no greater good could be for both nations than a perfect friendship between the ministers of her Majesty and those of the States, in which he entirely did agree, and as it appears to me, should be glad to find any opportunity in which he could show it.

It has been always my private thoughts that such an entire friendship would be the chief thing by which you could mortify your enemies, who, as I said before, flatter themselves with a hope of the contrary. For this reason and no other in the world I acquainted your Lordship with what is passed, and if you judge *àpropos* to answer me and to give me some instructions that I may speak with some power, or may make use of your name, pray let me receive your commands, and be assured that whatever you shall be pleased to trust to me, either great or little, shall be carried on with the greatest fidelity and secrecy, as much as ever was done by any one who was employed in your service, and if I succeed I beg no other reward than the continuance of your friendship, which I esteem amongst the blessings of this world. I shall not go to the Hague nor see the Pensionary or Mons. Fagel till I have an answer from your Lordship before Thursday fortnight, except I have an answer sooner, and then I shall regulate myself according to your commands.

W. Bromley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, July 24—I find our friends generally impatient for a dissolution, not only for putting an end to expenses, but because they think they can never go to their elections with more advantage than while the impressions made by the rejoicings at the thanksgiving, and by the Queen's incomparable speech, are fresh upon the minds of their electors. I am persuaded you will lose no time in giving them all the help you can in their elections, and that you will think it necessary now to make what changes are intended with regard to the members of the House of Commons.

[John Drummond to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, [July 25-]August 4, N.S. Utrecht—I am sensibly concerned to hear from my Lord Privy Seal of your Lordship's being indisposed.

I am sorry that anything should lessen the pleasure of a happy conclusion of affairs here, and of the last session of a good Parliament to your Lordship's family, both which have been so much owing to your own prudent conduct.

After three months' wrangling with Dutch plenipotentiaries and commissaries, I concluded here with them the provisional *réglement* of our and their trade to the Spanish Netherlands, by which the double duties and other impositions put upon the British trade, since the Dutch got possession of the Spanish Netherlands, are removed and discontinued, and their barrier put upon the same foot of trade with the rest of the Spanish Netherlands. As your Lordship will see more at large by the States' resolution, of which a translation goes here enclosed as near to their own words as I could make it, their commissaries desired full powers to sign the articles for the provisional *réglement* with me, but my Lord Strafford came up from the Hague with some of the States plenipotentiaries, and pretended that the States would not empower their commissaries to sign, but that they had empowered their plenipotentiaries to sign the articles with the Lords, her Majesty's ambassadors. This my Lord Privy Seal declared was an injustice done to me who had composed the articles in which I gratefully acknowledge his Lordship's assistance, but nobody's else, and if this injustice had not been done me, perhaps your Lordship might have thought it a sufficient justification for your providing for me when my name had appeared under a treaty, which I cannot but think is right in itself, because the French Commissaries desire to have the same without any alteration, and that great men were so desirous of putting their hand to it. The French Commissaries arriving before it was signed, desired to be admitted to sign it at the same time which the Queen's and States' ministers did, but the Dutch pressed earnestly to have it signed without them, and I believe do propose to dispute some articles with them, which in all appearance the French will no wise yield to, the one being of the eldest and chief commissioners of the Council of Trade, called Mons. Piecourt, and the other, Mons. Voltier, is a favourite of Mons. de Torcy's, who was three times here during the late war with proposals of peace, especially once after the battle of Ramillies, and was recommended to Mons. Hennequin of Rotterdam, and to Mons. Mollo at Amsterdam. These being both well supported by their court, and men of courage and experience themselves, I cannot see what the Dutch will gain by their delay, the more because the French do offer to put the people of the Spanish Netherlands on the same foot as they were upon in the year 1680 in France, as they desire to be on the foot of the year 1680 in the Spanish Netherlands, which is a condescension which I never would hear anything of in respect to England.

The third separate article saying that England, France, and Holland shall pay as they did in the year 1680, without any alternative, the enclosed translation being the consequence of the States' resolutions of the 9th of May, which was the first I brought them to, I have found a way to get the original resolutions into my hands signed by Mons. Welderen of Gelderland, who was then president of the States General, and confirmed by the Greffier Fagel, both whose subscriptions being originally in the two enclosed Dutch resolutions of the 9th of May, the one about the customs of import and export, the other resolution being about the transire duty, I take the freedom to enlarge this packet with them, because they are original acknowledgments of the hardships done to the British trade by exacting double duties on it, and such as the Dutch trade were free from, which fact the Whig writers have

always denied, and particularly in their famous book, the justification of the barrier treaty.

This morning the Duke de Ossuna and Marquis de Monteleon set out for the Hague, where Mons. Buys and three more of the Dutch plenipotentiaries are, it is supposed to finish their treaty there. If it should not succeed it is the Spaniards' own fault, for this may be properly called following and seeking the Dutch, and whoever advised the Spaniards to leave this place are not our friends, for it has been suspected that Dutch presents given to Spanish mistresses have already had some influence, and now the States will have fair opportunities of improving what has been begun.

My Lord Bolingbroke having mentioned something in his last letter to the Lords of my wishing that my Lord Privy Seal might go to Brussels, and that the Queen would probably order one of their Lordships that way before they came home, makes me hope that I shall still be happy in my Lord Privy Seal's assistance there to settle all matters for a continual method on which our trade will be, and my Lord Strafford's being at the Hague to bring the States to allow Mr. Vanden Bergh to consent with our demands at Brussels will be of the greatest use, for the Council of States at Brussels do nothing without consent of both nations, especially of the Dutch, who have by far the greatest interest in that Council, if not influence over it, and I am sure that my Lord Privy Seal will not refuse to do so good a service to his country, even though her Majesty should have honoured him with the bishopric of London, which, though I know he will never solicit for, all his Lordship's friends do hope he will not be disappointed of, and that he has deserved no less from her Majesty's goodness.

Both the Spaniards and Portuguese do think that something is doing at Madrid to finish that peace, which seems now the only thing in which my Lord Privy Seal can have anything to do here, and my Lord Strafford being at the Hague, and the Spaniards being gone to stay there, no doubt the Portuguese will soon follow, and then my Lord Privy Seal will be alone here, having almost finished the articles, which are to be obtained and signed at Brussels. I hope to be able to send them over next week to my Lord Bolingbroke for approbation, with the reasons opposite to each article, why it is desired, and then I humbly conceive that my commission here is accomplished, and that I have obtained the ends for which I was honoured with it. I heartily wish your Lordship a speedy and entire recovery with all manner of satisfaction.

F[RANCES VISCOUNTESS] BOLINGBROKE to LORD HARLEY.

1713, July 25. Bucklebury—I could not have had impudence enough to have writ to your Lordship if Dr. Stratford had not encouraged me. I am extremely concerned to hear of my Lord Treasurer's illness, therefore hope you will forgive this letter, which is to enquire how his Lordship is. It would be a great satisfaction to me to hear he was perfectly recovered, there being nobody in the world who has a greater respect and veneration for him than I.

MARTIN SANDYS to the LORD TREASURER.

1713, July 27. Worcester—Forwards by command of the mayor and aldermen an anonymous letter addressed to the mayor, &c., of

Hereford, exhorting them to declare for James III. as their lawful king, the Queen having given leave to the French ambassador to raise a regiment of 1,000 men in England for the king's guards to attend him at his landing, and 700 are already enlisted and quartered about Southwark. Sir Patrick Curtis, that was the King's envoy at Madrid, is now his envoy at the English court, but disguised as a Spanish minister by the name of Don Patricia Curtis, &c.

Viscount Bolingbroke to the Lord Treasurer.

1713, July 27—I am much obliged to you for the favour of your information and commands, but concerned lest you should have strained your eyes. Whenever you have anything to do which I am capable of serving in, you know that I shall with pleasure attend your orders. Since your Lordship has thought fit to write with so much appearance of openness to me, you will give me leave to answer you with all that frankness which I may venture to use, since I will never engage in any other interest, as I have had an extraordinary occasion very lately of declaring, but yours, and that of those friends with whom I now serve.

Opposition from the Whigs I always expected, and shall, I hope, always deserve. Ingratitude and impracticability both among the Tories I knew would be met with, though I must confess I did not imagine either would have been carried so far as I have seen them. For all this your true friends were prepared, and I dare say not one of them is frightened or even discouraged by the rage of our enemies, or by the treachery of our affected friends. But what breaks their hearts is the consideration of our unpreparedness to encounter such attacks, which they think arises from these causes:—

First, because all the use, which might be had, is not drawn out of those which serve; either from want of encouragement to some, or want of using authority over others.

Secondly, because a great part of the honey is consumed by drones, who clog the administration instead of helping it forward, not to mention those who make use of the Queen's favour against her service and her servants.

Thirdly, because you are forced to execute more than you should, and cannot therefore supervise. You are pulling at the beam when you should be in the box whipping and reining in, as the journey you have to go or the ways you pass through require.

Separate, in the name of God, the chaff from the wheat, and consider who you have left to employ; assign them their parts; trust them as far as it is necessary for the execution each of his part; let the forms of business be regularly carried on in Cabinet, and the secret of it in your own closet. Your Lordship would soon find those excellent principles, laid down in the Queen's Speech, pursued with vigour and success.

I cannot think we want hands for this work, at least I am sure making a right use of those we have is the certain way to have more.

Some of the points your Lordship recommends are taken care of, and I hope well; the others I will do all in my power to promote. Let me mention to you that Dunkirk should be either demolished or kept. I have seen d'Aumont's last orders, and am aware of the drift of the French. Though the 8th and 9th articles of the treaty are not made effectual as to the tariff, there are other advantages independent of the condition, which we are entitled to. The French Commissaries

desire to understand the matter otherwise. This should be settled, and Commissaries should meet upon it.

I say nothing about Dartmouth. Can Mr. Bromley be in any post so useful as in the chair? I wish Lord Bingley had been Secretary in the House of Commons, and the other Chancellor.

The House of Hanover play the devil! I think one of their tools might be gained, but I am too much in the dark to meddle in so nice a case.

If you forgive the length of this letter, and yet think that the worst part of it, you will be that great and that good natured man I always took you for. At Court or from Court, such as I am, I am ever yours.

Postscript.—I enclose a letter to you, which I suppose is from the Princess des Ursins, who has writ to me also. Grimaldo's letter to Lexington shows you the noble expedient they have found out for satisfying this lady, that the Queen should give her some of those places which she holds in trust.

I have marked the lines to save your Lordship's trouble.

FRANCIS, BISHOP OF ROCHESTER, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 27. Chelsea—The Bishop of Winchester desires to see your Lordship's library, not without hopes I believe of seeing you at the same time. A conference or two with your Lordship will thoroughly fix him in those measures to which he has now a good while leaned, and you may, if you please, determine him to take a journey into Cornwal at the election time, if you shall judge that expedient.

LORD LANSDOWNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 28—The few things I have recommended, which you are pleased to take notice of, require the speediest resolution. I have obtained till Saturday only to give a final answer to Mr. Elliot, who has a bargain ready on the other side, in case of a refusal. We are obliged to him, however, for the preference. Your favour to Mr. Vyvyan will have very good consequences, the sooner your Lordship is pleased to assure Sir Richard of it under your own hand, the better.

The interest in several of our boroughs suffers extremely for want of my receiving your Lordship's commands, and I fear some opportunities have been lost by it, which it will be impossible to retrieve. We are pressed with the utmost that diligence and expense can do against us. I beseech you to consider it in time, for I have fought myself to my stumps. I wait impatiently for your commands, till when I am in the dark and at a stand, whilst the enemy is braving it in the field.

EARL ILAY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, July 29—It will be our peculiar misfortune that your Lordship cannot ease yourself of the affairs of Scotland, without leaving us under a greater load of troubles than we have yet felt.

How far it is a matter possible in its own nature for you, the first, I may say sole, minister, to omit the giving your directions, or influencing matters of the last importance, I hope you will pardon me some little hesitation in reflecting upon it.

Our affairs even before the Union never were these hundred years (I might go farther) in our own management, and I doubt whether any measures can put them so at present. We have now these two years successively been drawn into heats by those who will always profit by them. Who proposed our leaving the House last year, he who made his court by coming in again, who proposed to the Lords this year to enter directly upon the measure of dissolving the Union? he who with a pretended zeal to the ministry did all he could afterwards to extinguish the flame he had raised. I have not been ignorant of the designs of such people against me, and if the necessity of affairs render it of use for your Lordship to give way, I shall still have this comfort, that I don't suffer but for your service.

About three years ago, when your enemies waged yet a doubtful war against you I provided myself with some patience, which now possibly I may have occasion for, and if ever my mite shall happen again to have weight in your service, you may command it. I only wish those whom public reports say you are to favour, will serve you more faithfully than they did others, whose countenance (just as now) they obtained by the same methods in prejudice to my brother and me; and if fate has anything disagreeable to lay upon you, they will again be the favourites to your enemies.

Francis Herbert to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, July 31. Oakeley Park—Since I received no command from you to name Lord Harley a candidate for Ludlow, I have presumed to oppose Sir Thomas Powys' son there lest they might consider it hereditary in the family. The father has long since called Ludlow his corporation, and if his son comes into the House of Commons as a representative of that place it will be a justification of his title, and he may devise it by will to his heir. If, however, you command me I will lay down my small pretence of an interest in that corporation, even were I sure of being elected.

Martin Bowes to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, July 30. Whelntham, near Bury St. Edmunds—Proposes an easy medicine to cure her Majesty's gout—a decoction, or tea, made of nettle-seed, two or three dishes morning and evening sweetened to suit the palate. If this advice from a stranger appears suspicious his near neighbour Sir Robert Davers will satisfy his Lordship that the writer is a loyal subject.

Scotch Peers.

1713, July.—Four papers in the handwriting of Lord Dupplin of this date. The first contains a list of [sixteen representative] "Present Peers," viz.:—

Duke of Atholl, Marquis of Annandale, Earls of Mar, Eglinton, Home, Linlithgow, Kinnoull, Loudoun, Findlater, Northesk, Orkney, Rosebery, Ilay, Viscount of Kilsyth, Lords Balmerino, Blantire; a list of "Peers pretending next elections," viz.:—Earls of Selkirk, Dundonald, Breadalbane, Dunmore, Portmore, Morton, Weems, Bute, Lord Belhaven, Duke of Montrose; and of "The Squadronie," Dukes of Montrose, Roxburgh, Marquis of Tweeddale, Earls of Rothes, Haddington, Marchmont.

The second paper is headed, "Some of the Scotch Peers' Pretensions to be dispatched before they go to Scotland," viz.:—

Earl of Eglinton. The old 500*l.* and his salary of the Commission of Chamberlainrie.

Earl of Home. Some money to carry him away, he having a p'ace of but 300*l.*

Earl of Linlithgow. The captain's pay of Blackness from Lord Dunmore's death to the date of the Earl of Linlithgow's commission.

Earl of Northesk. There was 1,000*l.* promised to be paid to him in September last and Lord Tr[easurer] said to him that for the delay it should be made better; and his salary of the Commission of Chamberlainrie.

Earl of Rosebery. His old pretensions of the remains of the few duties of Fife, his arrears of the Prince's service, and gift of Jo. Montgomery's escheat.

Viscount Kilsyth. He proposes no particular thing for himself, so Lord Tr[easurer] is best judge how to satisfy him for his past ser vice, and how to provide him in time coming; might not he be of Commission of Chamberlainrie?

Lord Balmerino. His salary of Commission of Chamberlainrie and his son's pretensions to the Session when vacant.

Lord Lyon.

Tom Bruce. The Muster Master's place.

Lord James Murray.

The third paper is headed, "List of Lords to whom it is proposed to give pensions," viz.:—

Earls of Glencairn, Caithness, Wigton, Lauderdale, Airlie, Kincardine, Balcarres, Breadalbane; Viscounts of Arbuthnot, Strathallan; Lords Forbes, Cathcart, Mordington, Semple, Elphinstone, Lindores, Reay, Pitsligo, Fraser, Banff, Elibank, Duffus, Rollo, Colvill, Rutherford, Ballendine.

The fourth paper gives a "List of Nonjurant Peers in Scotland," viz.:—

Earls of Murray, Winton, Carnwath, Panmure; Viscounts of Kenmure, Kingston; Lords Sinclair, Pitsligo, Halkerton, Abercromby, Colvill, Nairn.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, August 1—As no man that has any sense of duty to her Majesty, or regard to his country, can look on the conduct of some people among us without just indignation, so I that have all my life been brought up among and conversant with those people profess myself amazed at them.

I always thought however mistaken they meant well, acted from principle, and looked up as well as about them in the measures they took; but I am astonished to see them implacable, outrageous, and flying to all those abhorred methods of compassing their own designs, which they always censured and condemned in others.

This and the indefatigable application with which they are just now working at their scheme for a new election, and what they promise themselves and good men fear in case of their success, makes me renew my address to your Lordship with this humble question, viz., Can I render your Lordship and her Majesty's interest no service on this nice occasion? Your indisposition is not an affliction to your faithful servants only, but to all honest men, and a loss to the whole nation; my

loss in it is not worth naming, though to me very heavy, but I omit troubling you with my misfortunes. I hope I have not been an unprofitable servant in the new undertaking which I am embarked in. But I would willingly be farther useful according to my duty, and for this reason I attend the first occasion I may have to lay before your Lordship such thoughts as I hope may be for your service on this occasion.

LORD LANSDOWNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, August 2—It is of absolute necessity that I should be enabled to send Mr. Elliot an answer by Tuesday's post. Three months at least are past since I first made your Lordship this proposition, and you will pardon me if I say a man less jealous and impatient of neglect, might think himself not fairly dealt with by so long a delay. If Scobel might be made a Commissioner of trade, and Mr. Elliot had Scobel's place in the country, it would answer both their ends. If your Lordship approves this proposal I beseech you let me know it in answer to this, that I may empower my friend to write according to promise, or if this should not be practicable, I must then entreat you to let me have something else to say that may be depended upon.

If I could have obtained the honour of admittance to you, but once for one quarter of an hour within these six weeks, I would have answered it with my head that you should have had the nomination of at least forty members in one county. My misfortune is very particular, that having almost ruined myself to prepare such an interest for you, the service, even at the point of time when it is become necessary, seems not to be worth accepting. I beg pardon for saying so much; no man wishes your prosperity more than I do; may you long enjoy the honour you are going to receive, and being arrived at the highest pitch of greatness, may you have an eye to secure and establish it by preserving especially those friends who have followed you in all fortunes, and never failed you upon any occasion.

Postscript.—I beg a line in answer concerning Mr. Elliot that I may leave some instructions behind me for to-morrow's post.

LORD LEXINGTON to the LORD TREASURER.

[1713,] August [3-]14, N.S. Madrid—I received last post from Lord Dartmouth my letters of revocation, for which I must return my most humble thanks; for indeed 'tis returning me to life, for my health was so precarious that I am fully persuaded I could not have lived another winter. Having given Lord Dartmouth and Lord Bolingbroke a full account of all that passes I will not trouble you with it again.

LADY MASHAM to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1713, August] 6. Thursday—The Queen thanks you very kindly for enquiring after her health. Her Majesty came safe to this place, and is mighty well; she commanded me to let you know she will endeavour to persuade Lord Dartmouth not to give up the Seals, but she has thought him out of humour a good while by things he has let fall to her. I am in waiting on Saturday, so had not best think of going to my Lady Carmarthen's.

MATTHEW DECKER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, August 7-18. Rotterdam—On Monday last I was honoured with your Lordship's letter of the 28 July—8 August, I was heartily sorry to see your eyes did still continue so weak, that it was a trouble to write much; I will pray God he will restore them to their former strength and continue his blessings over the person of your Lordship. The contents of your letter and the hearty expressions you make use of in renewing the old friendship between her Majesty and this republic, gave me such a secret joy and pleasure that I cannot express what I felt. I resolved immediately to make all the good use of it possible, and went the next day to the Hague, where I saw first Mons. Fagel, with whom I entered upon our former discourse, and advanced now with more power, and told him that it was no single opinion of me, that your Lordship was so much inclined to keep up an entire friendship and good correspondence between himself and the great men here, but that I had authority from your Lordship to say so, and likewise that it was the Queen's fixed resolution, and that if the States would embrace it your Lordship would do all the good offices in his power. Mons. Fagel was extremely pleased, and told me that this was such a welcome visit, as he had not received these several years.

What further particulars we had in discourse would be too tedious for your Lordship, but the conclusion was that I should wait upon the Great Pensionary, and acquaint him with the same; as I have done, and was with him about two hours. He was in the beginning a little reserved, but no sooner I had told him what your Lordship had wrote to me, but he altered his style; and as I have been always informed that Mons. Heinsius was a gentleman of a very uneasy conversation upon account of his only hearing and not answering to anything, I found it quite contrary, and was received in the most obliging manner of the world, which can be upon no other account than that of your Lordship, for personally I have not the honour of knowing him. Our discourse was chiefly of what was passed since the beginning of that time when her Majesty thought fit to alter her ministry till now, and I acquainted him of several things which I had wrote in that time, some of which he seemed to be no stranger to. He had seen Mons. Fagel in Council, and was already informed in some measure of what I had discoursed with him. He said that nothing would be a greater pleasure to him than to enter again with your Lordship in a friendly correspondence and good understanding, he told me likewise that when Mr. Harley was here (for whom he testified a particular respect) that he brought him a letter from your Lordship, and if I remember right, that he has wrote last to your Lordship, but received no answer, which made him conclude you were unwilling to continue the correspondence. I told him plain my opinion and the reason I thought from whence that such a neglect proceeded. In short, both he and Mons. Fagel concluded that nothing could tend more to a true friendship and good understanding between her Majesty and the States than to forget all past matters, and to work henceforth with all true zeal for one another.

The Pensionary asked me if I could think on anything that the States could do at present to satisfy her Majesty and your Lordship of their sincerity in this great and good work. I would not enter upon any such thoughts before I knew a little more of your Lordship, but answered in general that there may be found out ways and means to come in that entire friendship as before, but that such a way was more

proper to be found out by him than by me. Further I asked the Pensionary whether he thought it proper I should acquaint anybody else with this, upon which points we discoursed pretty large and came both to a resolution that he and Mons. Fagel should acquaint Mons. Slingerland with it, where I should have gone myself, but he being indisposed of the gout sees nobody, and that I should endeavour further to see some more of the great man, with whom I should only discourse in general, which Mons. Heinsius thought, and I think so likewise, that it would have a better effect, for then they will come to enquire of him, Mons. Fagel or Slingerland, and they will have a better opportunity to inform them that I have the honour to speak so much with power as to know your Lordship's sentiments. This I have executed likewise for I have been to visit Baron Van Welderen, Mons. de Renswoude, de Burmania, and Hop; all members of the States, and people of great power, Baron Van Welderen and Burmania were not only entirely of your Lordship's opinion, but condemned a great many things at this side, particularly in that point where the States had been too much engaged in a party that flattered them with a thousand ill grounded hopes. They said further that it had not only been their opinion, but was still so, that upon some pretext or another there should have been sent two or three great men of this country as an extraordinary embassy to assure her Majesty of the respect this State has for her and for those ministers she is pleased to employ, and to heal that breach of friendship, and to renew it, as it was before; for, say they, this is the bottom of all our politics and happiness of this State, that there is a good understanding between England and this republic, that is the best barrier we can have, and it shall be always our endeavours to nourish that good work up as much as lies in our power.

Mons. de Renswoude and Mons. Hop I spoke in haste, but am invited at dinner when I come back, where I shall have a better opportunity to discourse more. Both Mons. Heinsius and Fagel have ordered me not to go out of Holland before I see them again, which I certainly intend to do, and hope by that time to receive another letter from your Lordship.

Now this foundation being so far laid, and I having that pleasure and comfort to be a little instrumental in it, which is the greatest satisfaction to me that I can have, I beg you will let me know your thoughts further upon this subject, how [*sic*, whom?] you think I am to speak more to, for those I have spoke I believe are of the most power, and chiefly whether you think it proper this State should send two or three ambassadors extraordinary, upon account of what I mentioned before, and if you think this would be agreeable to the Queen. If so I dare say, judging by the kind reception I have received, to have so much interest as to bring it about. I consider that your Lordship shall perhaps be unwilling to declare so much, or at least, to have it done in your name, but if so, my Lord, please but to acquaint me with your thoughts, and I will tell it to Mons. Heinsius and Fagel as my own opinion, and they shall never directly nor indirectly know that what you command is a secret. I forgot to say that Mons. Fagel told me that he had observed with great pleasure that since late there seemed to be that good inclination from your side, as what we spoke of, and that he was mightily sorry that some few days there had been a dispute about a Spanish regiment, either laid in or taken out of Ostend, which I do not well remember, and that the Earl of Strafford had complained of that. He protested to me it was done innocently without any design, and that they would alter as my Lord desired, he was really

vexed that such a thing should happen, but as it appears to me that trifle would not hinder the success of so good an intention as now is on foot.

I came yesterday from the Hague here, and go this evening to Antwerp, where I will stay four or five days, and then I will return again to Amsterdam, where I hope to find your Lordship's further orders. If they are pressing I will go immediately to the Hague, or otherwise I will stay about ten or twelve days longer at Amsterdam, and will take the Hague in my return for England, which I reckon will be within three or four weeks hence. I shall conclude with assuring your Lordship, as I said by my last, that I find in general the people much otherwise than I did expect, and all entirely inclined to keep a true friendship with your Lordship, and the other ministers which her Majesty is pleased to employ; nay, I go further, and can say that I find people that were quite contrary of opinion, and at present so entirely changed that it is now in your power alone to make up all differences. This is in my humble opinion so great an article to your Lordship's glory that there is nothing by which you can mortify your enemies more.

JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1713, August [7-]18, N.S. Utrecht—I hope this will have the honour to find your Lordship perfectly recovered. Since my friend Mr. Decker's coming into this country I have been several times with him at Amsterdam, and gave him the best advice I could for his conduct in conversation, which is become no matter of difficulty there amongst our magistracy, they having been set right long ago, and the people will soon follow if their peace with Spain were concluded, and that some pains were taken to make their gazetteers write as they ought, who have been several times called to account, and they produce the original letters from their rascally correspondents in England for their justification. The preservation of jealousy and discord between the two nations is chiefly supported and maintained at the Hague, and this is as much owing to their credulity of what is insinuated to them from the Queen's enemies, and from the correspondents they have at London, who take their information from a "cancerd" (cankered?) Secretary of State, and his companions.

As to anything, the Grand Pensionary says that Mr. Vanhuls is become so much a Tory that he does not judge any longer impartially in what concerns the interest of his country; Duyvenvorde believes nobody but his old preceptor, Hermitagie. Treasurer Hop had his information from and by Mr. Senserff of Rotterdam, who has some claret correspondents in the Westminster end of the town, and takes his city information from his tobacconists; Arthur Baylie was one of the chief, and the national loss of that worthy patriot is lamented. Secretary Slingerland has a correspondence of his own in England, and I look upon him and his correspondence to be the most dangerous of all, he was my Lord Townshend's inseparable favourite, and no less the confidante of the Captain General, and if anyone maintains that correspondence it is through and by him. He is the Greffier Fagel's near relation, and most intimate friend; and to the best of my judgment and information, the chief government of this State is managed by the Grand Pensionary, the Greffier Fagel, and Secretary Slingerland. The Grand Pensionary's second for managing the magistracy and cabals in the voting towns, is Vander Dussen; he has a great deal of cunning,

a strong constitution, and by birth and marriage nearly related to the chief men of Amsterdam, Dort, and Targou, or Gouda, and also at Schiedam. He is Pensionary and Burgomaster of Targou, his family is first from Dort, he married Burgomaster Pancrass' only sister from Amsterdam, which Pancrass married Corver's daughter, and governs that old gentleman. Slingerland married the daughter of the famous De Wild, secretary of the Admiralty of Amsterdam, to whom the King entrusted first the secret of the Revolution; this man had but one eye, which he saw further with in public matters than others who had two. He got his place conferred on his son David De Wild for life, who is now secretary of the Admiralty, and indeed chief manager, and Vander Dussen's son is going to marry his daughter by this De Wild. Slingerland has a great management in the Admiralty, and a good interest in the town of Amsterdam, and the Greffier Fagel's only daughter and child is to marry Slingerland's son. The Greffier's parts and his interests by relation in the town of Haarlem make him very useful, for he is the person who dispatches what the Pensionary concerts. The Pensionary is entirely master of the town of Delft, where he was born, and by places and management he has gained Gorcum, and the chief towns of North Holland. They are all afraid of Duyvenvorde, who is of unmanageable, turbulent, interested spirit, and his interest in the Ridderschap or Nobles is considerable, also his family, for by Wassenaer of Starremberg, he has much interest in Rotterdam; his brother Jacob is Burgomaster of Leyden, which though a divided magistracy, his interest there is not inconsiderable, especially if at any time he gets Lewe de Leyde to join with him, who rather is of Nortwyk's party, a bold man, who has great knowledge and experience in foreign affairs, makes his court to the army and to the town of Amsterdam, being born there, and was Pensionary of that town, and is brother-in-law to Burgomaster Hooft. He has been reckoned rapacious to maintain his expense, he was never well with the Captain General; and our present ambassador and he, being both high-minded, could never come to an intimacy, though it might have been useful and advantageous. Lord Albemarle joins his interest with Duyvenvorde in the college of Nobles, by which they carry everything there that they have a mind for, and though the Nobles have but one vote in the States of Holland, yet it is the first vote, and when anything is proposed, they have power of putting it off from one meeting of the States to another on pretence of not being instructed or prepared. None of the ministers of State who reside at the Hague do ever pretend to meddle with the civil government of any of the towns, in the towns themselves, but if they have a mind to gain a point they endeavour it by application to the deputies, who come from the towns, whom they oblige again in their way. All the interest which the ministers of State had in Amsterdam could not hinder their deputies from declaring for peace, when it came to the extremity they showed the town of Amsterdam that they could outvote them, only Amsterdam had the money in their hands, and declared that they would allow of no negotiations, neither make any advance above their real quota, without which the war could not have been carried on, and indeed without the Queen's assistance they could not have carried it on long, even with the assistance of Amsterdam if all their trade to France and Spain had been prohibited, and their other trade and fishing encumbered as the French would have done.

Mr. Decker had a very lucky opportunity of going to the Hague with Burgomaster Velters of Amsterdam, in whose house Decker had his first education, and it was this Burgomaster's tour to go deputy to the

Hague to the States of Holland last Wednesday. I told him the Grand Pensionary's humour who desires that if anyone is to apply to him, they may apply to nobody else, and therefore to keep his secret for the old gentleman, we had seen Fagel and Geldermalsem before, as their correspondents in some money matters, and I believe he gave your Lordship an account of their discourse and he was now to see Hop by Mr. Senseriff's means, and I advised him to see the Pensionary alone and without the knowledge of any one.

When their peace with Spain is concluded, I cannot see where the ground of jealousy between the two nations will remain, except on the general notion of trade, and the inequality with which they pretend that we do treat all the world by our high customs, which some amongst the highest have told me in confidence, when they thought me one of themselves, that they would oblige us to depart from when France came to be under a minority, and that they had nothing to fear from that side. The Government of the Spanish Netherlands and the right which they assume to themselves of having a free trade there, and of being the general provideiteurs of that country for all foreign trade and merchandise and of oppressing these poor provinces, which I hope we have now effectually prevented, have made them grumble exceedingly, and in one of their public gazettes they gave it out as if we even intended to open the Scheldt again. If the Queen support the true interest of her nations in that trade, which is of considerable import, they will ever be murmuring and encroaching upon us in it,, and it is to be remarked that the duties on all English goods and woollen manufacture going into France by way of Flanders are much easier than going directly from England to France, so that it is not only the consumption of our woollen manufacture in Brabant and Flanders that I have had in my view, but a larger consumption in through France, which the Dutch, by their new barrier, would have effectually hindered, and have had the benefit of to themselves for their Leyden cloth and other manufacture.

We may hope that when the Emperor comes into possession of the Spanish Netherlands that their jealousy of us in the trade and management of the said Netherlands will cease, and then I know not anything that ought to be the ground of any difference if the treaties and agreements be on both hands justly maintained, which they certainly will be on the Queen's side. They will no doubt make court to the Emperor, and renew alliances with him and other German Princes. I am sure Count Sinsendorff went from this much more exasperate against them than against the Queen, and when my Lord Lexington has done in Spain, perhaps the Queen may think on him or some other to go to the Emperor, who, I believe, by this time has abandoned Vienna, the accounts from thence saying that near fourteen thousand are dead of the contagious sickness which reigns there, and which is gone into Prague in Bohemia. The mortality of black cattle is prodigious here, especially in the province of Holland; they reckon above eighteen thousand died this summer, and the constant rains have destroyed the corn, and the mortality amongst the cattle is come into this province also, especially amongst the cows, insomuch that my Lord Privy Seal, by the advice of one of the professors of physic here, has privately wrote into England for butter and some other provisions.

There will go over in a post or two a paper very well written by a great man here, about a treaty of commerce, which a whimsical and disaffected party in your House of Commons joined to rob their nation of the advantage of. That worthy person who is composing so useful

a paper will send it to the Secretary of State to be perused by your Lordship ere it is printed; he ordered me to make a list of such goods of the British product as were either burdened with high duties or prohibited in Holland, in case your Lordship might think fit to cause any additions or insertions to be made out of this list, and this list is to lie in your Lordship's hands till the other paper be given to you to peruse by my Lord Bolingbroke. As the author of what is to be sent will not fail to justify the treaty in all its parts, he will not say anything in it that can offend the Dutch, though he is sensible of their intrigues to make that treaty of commerce ineffectual, and will therefore leave any part of this list to be inserted or not inserted as your Lordship may think fit, and because we want here the Custom House books for calculations, perhaps there may be a small calculation left in blank to be filled up, but I believe and hope that the paper will be written entirely without calculations.

DR. GEORGE SMALRIDGE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, August 9. Christ Church—I have this moment the honour of your Lordship's letter, which fills me with the utmost surprise and disquiet. I should be the most ungrateful man living if I was not deeply sensible of your Lordship's favour, and of her Majesty's great goodness to me, but I am under terrible apprehensions of a bishopric, the weight of which I have neither abilities of mind nor body, nor purse to sustain. The post in which I am here placed by her Majesty's gracious favour, is more than I am sufficient for; and I do most humbly beg of your Lordship that out of compassion to me, you would intercede with her Majesty, that this dignity may be conferred on some one better able to serve the Church and her Majesty.

Good my Lord be so kind and just to me as not to think this a formal *Nolo Episcopari*, but to believe that it comes from the bottom of my heart, and that no favours which your Lordship has done me or which you design me, can be so welcome as your prevailing with her Majesty that she would suffer me to employ my whole time in discharging the duty of that station in which God's providence and her Majesty's pleasure have fixed me.

W. BROMLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, August 9—Sir Thomas Hanmer and I will wait on you soon after seven o'clock. I think you will find it not difficult to prevail on him to take the chair, though he will decline everything else.

FRANCES VISCOUNTESS BOLINGBROKE to [LORD HARLEY].

1713, August 9. Bucklebury—I thank you for your letter, it brought the most agreeable news in the world of my Lord Treasurer's being better. However I was again alarmed, I hope by a false report, that his Lordship was taken ill at Windsor. I shall be glad to hear it is not true.

VISCOUNT LONSDALE and the BISHOP OF CARLISLE to [LORD HARLEY].

1713, August 14. Carlisle—Desiring him to remind the Lord Treasurer of his assurance that he would countenance the preten-

sions of Mr. Thomas Tullie, chancellor of the diocese, to succeed Dr. Smalridge in the deanery of Carlisle.

DR. GEORGE SMALRIDGE to [LORD HARLEY].

1713, August 16. Christ Church—My brother Stratford has communicated to me what your Lordship has been pleased in your letters to him to signify to me from my Lord Treasurer His Lordship is so very good to me that whatever my own sentiments or inclinations are it will not become me to decline his commands, to which therefore I do humbly submit, but then I must earnestly beg of his Lordship that if hereafter he finds, as I fear he soon will, that he was mistaken in his opinion of my fitness for the station, to which his favour advances me, he will not lay the blame on me, who have done all I can to remove that mistake. Our sub-dean will in a few days be in town and pay his duty and mine to my Lord Treasurer.

COL. JAMES GRAHAM to [LORD HARLEY].

1713, August 18. Levens near Kendal—Elections smell devilish rank in these northern parts, in many places great opposition where any contention, the Whigs have the better in management. A certain good Lord is doing more to lose Appleby than others do to gain it; but he is a wise man.

LORD LEXINGTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1713,] August 19. Escurial—I cannot dispatch this courier without repeating my most humble thanks to you for the obligation I have to you for obtaining my permission to return; it has really given such a satisfaction to my mind that my body is the better for it, I think, already. I do not trouble your Lordship with any business, having fully informed Lord Dartmouth and Lord Bolingbroke. I am now at the Escurial, this being the first leisure moment I have had since I came to Madrid. 'Tis a most wonderful pile of building, and though I have seen every particular part finer in Italy, as a finer library, a finer church, a finer college, a finer palace, and so on, yet assembling all these together and putting them into one structure, makes it the noblest thing in the world without doubt. I wish your Lordship good success in the next elections, and her Majesty as loyal a Parliament as she has parted with.

LORD LANSDOWNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, August 19—I am pressed from all parts of the country to hasten down. The opposition in the boroughs is very great and some places will be lost where it would have been impossible to hurt us, if it had been your pleasure to dispatch me in season. They look upon themselves as abandoned by my not appearing.

The SAME to [the SAME].

1713, August 20—I had hopes of seeing you some time to-day upon our county affairs, which are run into strange confusion by my not being there. Believe me the Queen's service is more concerned than you can imagine. There is no time left for considering.

GENERAL J[OHN RICHMOND] WEBB to —— ["SIR"]

1713, August 22. Bidsden, near Andover—I was in hopes to have found my name among the rest who have lately been provided for, but since I did not, I take the liberty of reminding you of my affair, and desire that if anything is intended for me you will do me the favour to have it done before my election, which, though I have deferred a while, will be soon.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713 [August 22-] September 1, N.S. Utrecht—The services which my Lord Albemarle has done and may still be able to do and the obligations which I owe him, make me take the freedom to trouble your Lordship with the enclosed [*missing*], and laying aside all other concerns than that of serving your Lordship, I cannot but think that his friendship is worth your Lordship's cultivating, with humble submission to your better judgment; he was not long ago resolved to go into England. If any one in this country is admitted into Imperial secrets I believe he is, and I am of opinion that his going to Aix-la-Chapelle is connected with the Pensionary. The Duke of Marlborough is expected there and at Brussels; Mr. Cadogan is at Brussels, where he finds his old friend and servant Mr. Laws still in the Queen's service in the post he left him, if not in a better.

The Dutch begin to be angry again as if the Queen hindered their peace with Spain, but I tell them that they do her Majesty as little justice in this as in many other things. If this peace of theirs were finished, which the Queen's subjects have no great reason to be in haste about, my Lord Privy Seal is of opinion that the Spaniards and the Portuguese may be persuaded to carry their peace into England to be finished, but it will be lucky for the Portuguese that her Majesty will undertake the mediation betwixt them. The Duke de Ossuna is throwing away his money with the greatest profuseness that ever has been seen at the Hague; I wish he may not sell somebody at last to get money to pay his debts. The French Commissaries of Commerce have made some scruples about my Commission and also about the Dutch Commissaries' Commissions, who have also found some objection to theirs about treating the provisional *réglements*, so that we have all wrote for additional powers. Their king has given them too great an allowance to dispatch matters as fast as they might, and the Queen's business being for the most part concluded (at least what is chiefly to be done here), I am forwarding an agreement between the Dutch and the French as fast as I can, and if my Lord Privy Seal be ordered home by way of Brussels all that I have to demand there I hope may be soon obtained, unless the Emperor come in to the peace, that a formal ratification can be obtained for the future security of the trade of her Majesty's subjects, in which I hope nothing on my part has been or will be neglected.

Mr. St. John arrived here this day with the ratification of the Spanish peace. I believe the ratifications will not be so soon exchanged as he may have expected.

C. DES MAIZEAUX to the LORD TREASURER.

1713, August 22. London—I now send you the third volume of the "Histoire Critique de la Republique des Lettres."

Some time ago I sent to the author (Mr. Masson, minister at Dort) an extract of Dr. Swift's "Proposal for correcting and improving the English tongue" which he hath inserted, page 293, *et seq.*, of this volume. It appears by this journal, page 310, that the King of Prussia hath shut his public library. Mr. la Croze, who was library keeper, is a man of great learning, specially in the Greek and Oriental languages and even in the Chinese; as your Lordship may see by a letter of his printed in this volume, page 272. Give me leave most humbly to represent to your Lordship, that nothing would be more agreeable both to your own inclinations and the high post you are in, than to procure some establishment in this kingdom to so learned a man.

LADY MASHAM to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1713, August] 23. Sunday night—I hope by this time the marriage is over and I wish you joy with all my heart. I desire you will send but two favours, one for the Queen, and one for the Lady of the Bedchamber, none for the Groom of the Stole. I will tell you the reason when I see you. Send them to me, I will take care to deliver them to the lady in waiting. I beg to know when Lady Harriet Harley comes hither that I may desire Lord Harley to do me the honour to bring her to my lodgings.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1713, August 24.] Sunday. Windsor—I receive this moment your letter of yesterday's date, and though you do not mention your being at Wimpole, which place, by the way, all the town knew on Friday you were gone to, yet no man living is more sincerely rejoiced than I am at the occasion of your journey. I heartily wish increase of honours, fortune, and all other happiness to you and yours.

Postscript.—How the devil came Lady Russell to be so reasonable as to consent to the taking out the licence.

The Queen commands me to add that she desires care may be taken to call Lady Herriot (*sic*) not Lady Harley, but Lady Herriot Harley. Thus the Queen says she will not lose her place of a Duke's daughter.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, August 25. Windsor—Why might not Lord Bingley go to France? His estate will bear it, and his obligations to the Queen will, if she requires it, I suppose, make him willing.

According to my scheme Wych will be without employment. Why not send him to Lisbon instead of having him on our hands here?

The Queen thought Lansdowne gone into Cornwall I find he is not, and I hear he is under uneasiness about the matter.

The disorders in the Court of Spain grow worse and worse. Jersey has an opportunity of showing his talents. Since he does not come hither I write to him. A few words from you would, I fancy, send one into Cornwall and the other to Madrid.

If I knew your Lordship's motions I would throw myself in your way to receive your orders, and to congratulate you upon this happy marriage, which makes a family (*sic*) that I have sincerely more concern for than I have for my own.

The Same to [the Same].

Same date—Since I wrote my letter I have been with the Queen who hopes she shall see you at furthest on Saturday.

Lady Masham kisses your hands. We all agree that you have played, least in sight, as if you went to get a mistress for yourself instead of a wife for your son.

Postscript,—I should acquaint your Lordship that the Queen has ordered the Baltic squadron to be discharged. The Danes knew full well that the season is now too far advanced for this fleet to go to their seas. The expense therefore ought to cease when it can be of no further use. The Lords of the Admiralty will apply to your Lordship before they obey the orders I send them, which, if I mistake not, are agreeable to your sense.

I have writ to Lord Strafford to acquaint the Pensionary that the Queen had but too much reason to keep her hold on Dunkirk, &c., according to the minute taken on Thursday. May I not begin to take measures, in case the States do not give the Queen satisfaction about Ostend, to induce the French to come to a new bargain with us about Dunkirk? Be pleased to turn this in your thoughts. I am much deceived if I do not see a fair way of giving this affair a lucky turn.

The Duke of Beaufort to the Lord Treasurer.

1713, August 29. Lyndhurst—Mr. Robert Pitt, who was against the Commerce Bill, is opposed upon that account by Mr. Jones of Ramsbury, with a prospect of success. I beg the favour of your Lordship so far to espouse us as to give an order to the Postmaster not to turn out Mr. Waterman, of the "George" at Salisbury, from his office upon the desire of Mr. Pitt, unless they allege some other cause besides his refusing Mr. Pitt his vote. I am just come home from the Isle of Wight, where Mr. Lewis and Sir Anthony Sturt have carried it from the Marquis of Winchester and Mr. Wallop, by a considerable majority for the county.

Lord Weymouth to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, August 30. Longleat—The sincere respect I bear your Lordship and your family will not suffer me to be silent in this conjuncture of my Lord Harley's marriage, whose personal merit was equal to the best match in England, and will now have one of the best estates in it.

The party are far from laying down the cudgels, they are active in all places, most especially in this country, where they will succeed in one or two boroughs, and struggle hard for the shire, but there they will be defeated. The report is that your Lordship will come to the Bath, I am heartily sorry your health should make it necessary, I wish it may prove effectual to the restoring of it.

Horse Races.

1713, July and August.—A paper headed "The days that the races will be most convenient to be run on in July and August, 1713."

Peterborough races, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of July.
Lincoln races, the 15th, 16th, and 17th of July.
The Queen's Gold Cup for five years old mares at Hambleton, July 28th, the day that York Assizes end.
The Queen's Gold Cup at York for six years old horses, July 30th.
The City of York, five plates for five days to end August 5th.
Nottingham Races to begin August 12th and continue for five days.

So that if the Queen's Plates be put off till after Durham and Newcastle Assizes, those Plates will interfere with Nottingham Plates, and will spoil the sport both at York and Nottingham, because the horses that run at York cannot go to be at Nottingham fit to run there, for want of time; so it is desired that the Queen's Plates may run on the days abovesaid.

M. DE VARENNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, September 1—Asking for an answer to be sent to M. de Harlay, and for Lord Oxford's portrait, which was anxiously expected. Also desiring his favour for his nephew, who was studying at Oxford, and wished to become a fellow of All Souls.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, September 1—Congratulations on Lord Harley's marriage. Came that evening from Windsor. The Queen was very well and had given him leave to go to Staffordshire for some time.

[VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, September 2. Windsor—I congratulate your Lordship from the bottom of my heart. The fortune, the honourable manner of obtaining it, and the consequences of this establishment, are all considerations which affect me with as great pleasure as I ever felt. This truth, you may, my Lord, safely entertain, since whatever faults I may have I am on two sides free from blemish, and these are zeal for the Queen's service and friendship to your Lordship. I go to-morrow to London in order to speak to the Lords of the Admiralty and to set the Board of Trade to work. The Queen commanded me to bring her a warrant for making one Dr. Gibbons dean of Carlisle; it is signed, but the bill cannot be so till Sunday, for which day the Cabinet is summoned.

SIR ROBERT PRICE, Baron of the Exchequer, to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1713, September 3. Foxley—Congratulations on Lord Harley's marriage.

Our elections go on very prosperously in these countries. On Monday last Serjeant Birch and my son's election was for Weobly, one Carpenter, a diminutive justice of the peace, of 160*l.* per annum, has these six months kept up a ferment in the borough, I believe intentionally to serve the general of that name. After two or three warm skirmishes he vanished. I must do him right, he did

not oppose my son but Birch, and if he could have "cornwallised" it, by scattering some guineas illegally, the serjeant would have been sent to grass.

Sir Roger Bradshaigh to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, September 4. Haigh—Our election at Wigan was yesterday, where Mr. Kenyon and myself were chosen by a very great majority, notwithstanding the opposition of Lord Barrymore and his friends the Finches. I have met with several letters sent from considerable persons above to their party friends here to do their utmost to throw me out.

William Spencer to Lord Harley.

1713, September 5. Leominster—Mr. Colt's interest here was carried by our dissenters both in town and neighbourhood, they affirming the night before the election that Mr. Colt had seventy-one single votes. The poll stood thus in our Town Clerk's books—the Honourable Edward Harley, Esquire, two hundred and nineteen; Henry Gorges, Esquire, one hundred and eighty-six; Jo. D. Colt, Esquire, eighty-eight, his single votes amounted but to twenty; five single votes Mr. Auditor, one single vote Lord Coningsby, one Esquire Gorges, one Archer Croft, Esquire. Several gentlemen appeared, viz., the High Sheriff, who was carried to Mr. Powell's in your uncle's chair dressed with laurels and ribbons, as likewise was the other chair; Sir Thomas Morgan, Baronet; Sir Hungarford Hoskins, Baronet; Samuel Pitts, Esquire; Thomas Foley, Esquire; Esquire Jackson of Pontrilos, Ri. Hoper, Esquire, Young Esquire Foley, Mr. Sergeant Birch, William Lamb of Bidney, Esquire, Esquire Carpenter, and several others.

The Earl of Ilay to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, September 5. Windsor—Not knowing whether your Lordship will have leisure to-morrow to let me spend a few minutes of your time, I hope you will not think I importune you too much in writing parts of what I would say to you. I took the liberty to tell you lately that I would not believe I was out of your favour till you should tell me so, and have therefore in spite of public reports, considered myself as such only as you have been pleased to call me these three years, engaged in your service. I am not conscious to myself of having done anything inconsistent with your good opinion, or if I have, I should be ready still to mend; I believe your Lordship is sensible how hard a case it is to be whispered into supposed crimes without having any opportunity of justifying oneself, and if the reports were true of the Court being to declare against me in the coming elections, after the part I acted the last, and the support, according to my weak capacity, I have endeavoured to give your Lordship in your measures ever since, I shall be indeed an unaccountable instance of what I never did, nor can yet imagine while you are at the head of the Ministry.

I hope you will yet give me leave to speak to you before I am absolutely condemned in your opinion. I am come here on purpose to have that honour. My Lord, give me leave to wish you joy. I believe even your enemies will now hardly think that a Minister who has so vast a stake can neglect the interest of his country, and it seems now, more than ever, to be below you to suffer one who has served you to be ill-used upon false surmises and suggestions.

A. Lady Pye to Abigail Harley, at Auditor Harley's in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

1713, September 7—I wish, dearest cousin, I could send you letters free, having been chargeable of late upon that score, this comes just to wish you a good journey to the Bath, sorry the Auditor's lady hath no better health, pray let me hear from you when there. I had very little time last post, but just to thank you for your good news of the wedding. I assure you we spent the day merry upon that occasion, Mrs. Barbier sung all the afternoon, and the young people danced at night.

I have just now writ a few lines even to Lord Treasurer to congratulate, I don't know whether I should have troubled him, but think he'll take it not amiss, we are all heartily glad, and I thought you might have taken leave of him before this reached. All that I converse with, especially one Mrs. Dan, now in this town, gives Lady Harriet a high character, and Lord Harley a natural good temper, that I think they can't fail of being happy. Never heard of anything so provoking as Lord Winchester's carriage, all that can be said for him he gave her fair warning before marriage. I believe I had not time in my last to say a word of this town election, a thing never in the least expected was no disappointment. The only fret to me that he threw up the poll not knowing his own strength, having neither spent nor managed, but never must he expect here or in any place the hearts of people, as this time hope he hath now done as I can truly say never designed, and was against his mind drawn to it. The Curzons are a haughty race, and it seems angry at the opposition, but most I hear that a lawyer tendered the oath as is directed it seems by a late Act, to certify their being qualified. They tell my son he shall be High Sheriff. It was not over handsome for the Curzons to exclaim, as some of the brothers did in the spring when he was chose on the vacancy, and call the peace dishonourable at a public table, when all the gentlemen of the country by, but I am, dear cousin, grown weary to hear the heat, &c., on all sides—burn my letters.

Godfrey Wentworth to Paul Foley, M.P., at the Posthouse, Boroughbridge.

1713, September 7—Upon a report we have that Mr. Dawney intends to decline his election at Aldborough and stand to that at Pontefract, I am advised to offer my service to Aldborough, which I should readily comply with might I hope to obtain your recommendation and assistance, without which I am assured no success is to be expected. I beg the favour of your reply, directed to my brother's at Woolley. *Copy.*

JONATHAN, BISHOP OF WINCHESTER, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, September 11—In obedience to your commands I have taken care to have Mr. Jennings chosen at East Loe. I was ambitious of the honour of your son, but was well satisfied with the reason why I could not have it, since the interest of your family required Lord Harley should receive the respects of that town which hath ever been a servant to it. I am pleased to have an opportunity to remember to your Lordship the great favour of your assisting me in obtaining the see of Winchester.

P[ETER] DES MAIZEAUX to the LORD TREASURER.

1713, September 11. London—Refers to the inscription of his life of Monsieur Bayle to his Lordship, and to his appointment last year to be one of the Commissioners for the Lotteries, begging the same favour for the present year.

JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1713, September [11-]22, N.S. Hague—The French Commissaries of Commerce, being come down here to get the assistance of their ambassador, Mons. Chateauneuf, to procure the execution of the third separate article of the treaty of peace from the States, which the Dutch Commissaries of Commerce seem to dispute with them, the French have made a declaration that the Dutch are not to expect that any part of their Treaty of Commerce will be executed in France, unless the States perform immediately what is stipulated in the above mentioned third separate article, which will in all appearance prove an effectual way to bring the States to perform what their ambassadors have signed and they have ratified. I came here to observe a little their proceedings, which are but very slow, and to press as much as I can their coming to a conclusion, that we may be able to go to Brussels to propose to the States of Brabant and Flanders the settlement on which our trade for the future is to be to the Spanish Netherlands, and to obtain their consent to our proposals, especially to my own, after they have been approved of in England, that they may only want the Imperial ratification when the Emperor is so wise to come into the peace to which he seems so averse at present.

Having received confirmation of my Lord Harley's happy marriage since my arrival here, I crave leave to congratulate your Lordship with the happy establishment of your family in so noble, so great, and so virtuous a manner, without riches acquired at the expense of your country, or honours by the destruction of others, I hope that this renewal of alliance to the Newcastle family will renew the family and its honours in your Lordships, that seeing another Robert, Earl of Oxford, cannot become Duke of Ireland, his son may become Duke of Newcastle, and live to follow his father's great example in the service of his Sovereign and of his country.

I have been to see the Pensionary and all my old acquaintances here as formerly, and I did not find them so much on the reserve as I expected, the Pensionary blames my Lord Strafford for hindering their peace with Spain, the only thing that they have not agreed is that they will not become guarantees for the county of Chiny to

the Princess des Ursins, and that they desire to be treated *amicissima gens* in their trade in Spain, which latter, my Lords ambassadors have consented to, with this exception, that what is given to England in the treaty of Assiento they shall make no pretension to, but they pretend that whereas they have consented to England already the Assiento and one ship yearly to the Spanish West Indies, there is no need of making that exception in their treaty with Spain; and as to their becoming guarantees for this estate to the Princess des Ursins, the Marquis de Monteleon consented to depart from it, but that my Lord Strafford would not consent to it, and all this they put upon us, only as a design to keep them the longer from the benefit of the Spanish trade, for which their people at Amsterdam make a great clamour, and jealousies and differences arise daily amongst the provinces, who, some weeks ago, carried by a majority against Holland to disband the three youngest battalions of the six Scots battalions, which are in the States Generals' service; and they have now again agreed that if the Queen desires them to keep all the six battalions, that they will keep them, and I believe the wisest men amongst them do think that they have reduced their army too much already, for as fast as they disbanded, the King of Prussia had officers in all the garrisons to take on the best men into his service, but his Majesty will employ no foreign officers, so that all which our Scots commanders now wish for, is that the Queen may be pleased to recommend to the States that they may continue in their service in consideration of their good services, and of the number of recruits which they have cost their nation during the war, and then the States will certainly keep them in pay.

I wish there may be no difficulty between our Lords about the precedency, since my Lord Bishop is no more Privy Seal. I had some questions asked me which made me the more desirous to be out of the way for some days, but I am sure the Bishop is resolved not to let the Queen's business suffer one minute for anything of that nature. The Princess of Nassau-friesland lives now near Utrecht, for some months, at one of the late King's houses; if the Queen's affair about the jewels of the late Queen Mary be not yet adjusted, the Bishop could no doubt soon determine that with her.

The Duke of Marlborough demanded the use of the King's house at Breda to live this winter in, which I am told that the States refused or excused, so Mr. Cadogan hired a house at Antwerp before he went over, and he declared that he would go and serve in this Parliament himself, and his being chosen at Woodstock makes people believe that his party is grown strong. Mr. Decker will be soon over, and your Lordship will hear his opinion of matters here, with that consideration that he is a native of this country and lodged at Mr. Sinserff's house, and I believe he will tell his mind very freely to the best of his judgment. He has had great success in his own private affairs, and in all appearance will become a very rich man without risking what he has already got, which is a happiness that few can arrive to.

Lord Lansdowne to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, September 11. Launceston—I send you enclosed the list of the members chosen for the boroughs in this county, in which we compute ourselves to have a majority of ten to one, to be depended

upon. If it has happened that there is any one man upon the list disagreeable to you, your Lordship best knows the reason; but, as it is, I have the honour to send you up the largest return of persons, particularly devoted to the Queen's service, and the interest of their country, that ever came from hence, in which no less than twenty are of my own nomination. I cannot trouble you with a long letter if I would, being so surrounded with my present friends that I am not permitted to converse with the absent; but I thought it my duty not to omit the first opportunity of informing you that the Queen's service has been far from suffering in these parts, and that we have once more entitled ourselves to some consideration from her ministers by a high testimony of our loyalty and zeal, beyond even our own expectation. From hence, this great hurry being now over, I am going to find a little rest, if I can, at my own house, from whence I hope to find an opportunity to give you more particular and less hasty accounts.

WILL[IAM] SHIPPEN, M.P. for Saltash, to ——.

1713, September 12. Essex House.—Understanding that you are at the Bath, I take the liberty of following you with this letter, and I believe you will excuse me when I tell you my Lord Treasurer sent Mr. Legh word back by his servant (who carried the letter you directed him to write), that it was impossible to do his affair yet. This answer was a great mortification to Mr. Legh after the hopes I had given him from the talk you and I had in the morning. He would have gone immediately into the country, but I thought it of the best consequence to keep him in town, that the person who hath been so very free and insolent with you and myself on this occasion, might not triumph and seem to have any foundation for his malicious insinuations. My Lord Treasurer hath such a multiplicity of affairs on his hands that I despair of having this business done in any time unless you would favour me with a pressing letter to my Lord, enclosed in one to me that Mr. Legh may have the opportunity of carrying it himself. I beg you will not deny me this request by the first post, for I think my honour highly at stake with Mr. Legh at Lyme, who expects hourly to hear from me and who hath so handsomely and readily chosen Mr. Blackmore a member for Newton. I heartily wish a perfect recovery of your health.

JA[MES] GIBBS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, September 13. Whitehall.—Wednesday last was the day appointed by the Commissioners of the new churches for electing a surveyor, but the Dean of Canterbury being in the chair, it was deferred a fourteen night hence. Now since your Lordship was pleased out of your goodness to recommend me by my Lord Bingley's letter, I hope you will be pleased to consider and compassionate my circumstances by not recommending anybody else. I thought indeed that the least intimation in your name by anybody besides so great a man as my Lord Bingley would have been sufficient to the Commissioners for electing the person recommended, but it seems that my antagonist has got the majority upon his side, and unless your Lordship renew your goodness by a line or two from your own hand, I shall certainly lose it. These little places do not fall out

every day, and I may starve before another opportunity presents itself, but your Lordship, that takes a pleasure in doing good, will, I hope, consider my circumstances at present, by letting me have this small thing, since it lies entirely in your breast to give it or not, as you please, and only depends upon a line from your hands; you will do a great act of charity, and I am sure oblige very much my Lord Mar and all my friends.

The SAME to the SAME.

Undated—I went upon Wednesday last with my Lord Bingley's letter, in your Lordship's name, to the Commissioners for building of the fifty new churches, and they said they had a great respect for your recommendation, for which I acknowledge my obligations to your Lordship. Only my friend Mr. Vanbrugh was against me, I suppose because I was recommended by your Lordship, and got the Commissioners to defer the nomination of a surveyor these two months as yet, and it may be longer, which I believe may be dangerous, wherefore I have presumed to acquaint you with it, as likewise to send the enclosed letter to subscribe if your Lordship thinks it proper, seeing it is only to confirm your first recommendation which was by my Lord Bingley; it will contribute, I am sure, very much to my advantage in obtaining the place of surveyor, and add a new obligation upon me.

The SAME to the SAME.

Thursday. From my lodging in Chandos Street—I would willingly be doing something to establish my reputation here, by showing the world by demonstration that I know something of what I pretend I have learned while I was abroad, and by making this as advantageous as I can, till such time as your Lordship shall think fit to provide for me. In order to this I have a mind to publish a book of architecture, which indeed is a science that everybody criticises here, and in all the countries that ever I was in, never did I see worse performers. Be that as it will, this is my design, which I think to go about this summer if your Lordship will encourage me by accepting the dedication, and being at the expense of the plates, for I am so far from being able to pay the charge myself, that I am fifty pounds in debt, so that I can do nothing in this till I have a favourable answer from your Lordship, and if you should have the goodness to lend me some little sum of money to help to pay my debt, I will promise to repay it upon demand, if able, which will very much help and oblige me.

T. WALKER to HENRY CRISPE, Custom House, London.

1713, September 14. Lynn Custom House—I have here sent you the speech Colonel Robert Walpole made to the electors here after he was elected. Perhaps you may not hear of or see such another. It is as exact as it could be taken in shorthand. If you have not written to me of what I mentioned in my last, before this comes to hand, pray fail not to write by the next post, and give me account how affairs stand as near as possible, and I will answer yours I hope to your satisfaction.

Enclosure.

Gentlemen—I cannot but think myself entirely obliged to you for the favours bestowed on me this day, but more especially I think myself particularly bound to offer you my most hearty thanks for your kindness in electing me, after that malicious prosecution of me, inasmuch as you were pleased to stand by me, because you dare to be honest in the very worst of times, and this act of yours will render this corporation famous to the later posterity. The late Parliament (from whom no good could be expected, nor no good came) addressed her Majesty to use her interest with all foreign states to remove the Pretender from their dominions, but this hath been so well complied with that he is at present removed as near us as the power of France can place him.

Gentlemen—Her Majesty was pleased to tell us (as you all know) a year past that Dunkirk should be demolished, but not one stone is removed, and the completion of that work is deferred till Christmas, and whether it will then be demolished we have no certainty, and as to the terms of peace, I dare be bold to affirm that had the King of France beaten us, as we have done him, he would have been so modest as to have given us better terms than we have gained after all our glorious victories. Gentlemen—We have some reason to think that the ensuing Parliament will tread in the same steps with the former, but assure yourselves we will struggle hard for our religion and liberty.

[*Another copy, slightly different, of the same speech is annexed. It is endorsed by Crispe as having been received from Dr. Otway, of St. John's, Cambridge, who had it from a correspondent in Lynn.*]

News Letter.

1713, September 15. London—Letters from Turin advise that the Duke of Savoy is repairing the fortifications of his frontier towns on the side of France, but especially on the side of Milan, which gives some umbrage to the Emperor, and looks as if the peace of Italy was not very long lived. The Genoese have actually paid to the Emperor's minister, the Marquis du Prie, 300,000 pistoles, notwithstanding the remonstrance made by the French and Spanish ministers to the contrary, which it is thought may in time be but a bad bargain to them, if the Courts of Madrid and Versailles should demand the like sum of them, to suffer them to keep a quiet possession of Finale. The Emperor has remitted 200,000 pistoles of the money to Prince Eugene.

Letters from Vienna tell us that the Emperor has held a great council of war there, in presence of Count Staremberg, wherein it was agreed to send the said general to command a body of troops in Suabia, in order to cover the country of Bavaria, and to prevent the inhabitants from raising any disturbance in favour of their prince, which it has been feared would happen if the French army advances into the Black Forest, also 8,000 Imperial troops, which came from Catalonia, and are yet in the Duchy of Milan, are ordered to march into Bavaria, and take possession of Munich and Ingolstadt, in order to curb the Bavarians.

Those from the Upper Rhine continue to give an account of the great preparations of the French for the siege of Fribourg, but it is whispered here, that the design of the Marshal de Villars is to pene-

trate with his whole army into Bavaria and the heart of the Empire, which if he should do, the Marshal de Bezons is to pass the Rhine with a great army also, as well to oblige Prince Eugene to leave a great body of troops behind him, as to secure the convoys and retreat of the French. It is certain the French have some extraordinary enterprise in view, for they are drawing all the power of France to the side of the Rhine, and the French generals say they will offer Prince Eugene battle on the plains of Blenheim, and thereby retrieve the honour of France.

What is most strange under all these circumstances is, that yet the Emperor will not hear of peace, and has positively rejected the offers made by her Britannic Majesty of her mediation, and bringing the King of France to grant reasonable conditions to the Empire, notwithstanding the superiority of his forces. Whether this is an infatuation for the ruin of the House of Austria, we cannot say, but as there is no appearance of any armies which are like to check the course of the French conquests, it seems probable that the Empire may suffer some great revolution, if the Court of Vienna do not alter their measures very speedily.

The elections for members of Parliament continue to go on as at first. The Whigs complain of great injustice, and of undue elections, but there are very few of the elections which they have carried but there are petitions lodged against them, so that it should seem that the injustice is not all on one side. We hear at the late election for Berwick, Mr. Hampden and Mr. Grey Neville joined their interest in hopes to throw out Mr. Ord, a Northumberland gentleman, but the said Mr. Ord carried it against them, having polled 67 single voices, and that the interest of the Whigs, which has always prevailed in that town, declines apace. George Halton, son of Sir Thomas Halton, of Newington Green, who was formerly taken up for cursing the Queen, had an indictment brought against him this sessions, and the Grand Jury, having found the evidence clear and undoubted, have found the bill, but the defendant having traversed the same, the trial is put off till the next sessions. We hear the half-pay allowed to the disbanded officers will be restricted to a certain number, if not wholly taken away; some of those who have enjoyed her Majesty's bounty on that account having distinguished themselves in a very undutiful manner by their carriage in public, on occasion of the peace. His Grace the Duke of Shrewsbury is appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and the Right Honourable the Earl of Mar has taken possession of his new office of third Secretary of State.

It is said the Revd. Mr. Thomas Spratt is made Prebendary of Westminster, and the Revd. Mr. Thomas Gibbon, Dean of Carlisle. I hear Lord Harley will be made Duke of Newcastle, and his Lordship and his Lady are to kiss her Majesty's hand this day.

News Letter.

1713, September 17. London—Letters from the north advise that the affairs of Poland are in the utmost confusion; the plot of the partisans of King Stanislaus appears to be more considerable than was at first believed, and it is expected they will appear in arms on the first approach of the Turkish army, which they write is now in full march. There is but one incident which can secure King Augustus,

which, if it happens, may indeed alter affairs on that side, and that is the King of Sweden's life, which they say was despaired of when the last letters came away, and others pretend to have letters which give an account of his death on the 24th of June last, but this is not confirmed.

King Augustus has written pressing letters to the Emperor and the King of Prussia for assistance, in case of an invasion from the Turks, alleging to the former that he is obliged to assist him, and to declare war against the Porte by the alliance made after the treaty of Carlowitz, but the Emperor's affairs are in no condition for such a breach at this time.

They write from Venice that their whole trade seems interrupted on the side of the Adriatic, all the islands in the mouth of the gulf being infected with the plague, and their trade by land is likewise stopped by the infection having spread in the Emperor's hereditary countries, and into Bavaria and Tyrol. They have also terrible apprehension of it on the side of Italy.

We understand by letters from Leghorn that the corsairs of Barbary have taken several Italian vessels having British colours, and they have declared that they will continue to do so, and that all the British sailors which they find in them shall be made slaves, so that it is to be feared the peace will be broken between us and those rovers, but whether it be the corsairs of Tunis or Tripoli is not yet certain. They talk in Italy of a new project of peace between the Emperor and France, and that the Duke of Bavaria shall have the kingdom of Naples and Sicily with the style of King, the Duke of Savoy the Duchy of Milan; the Duchy and Electorate of Bavaria to be for ever annexed to the house of Austria, but this wants confirmation.

Edinburgh, September 10—This day was a very great meeting of the barons and freeholders of this county, where their former representative, George Lockhart, of Carnwath, Esquire, was unanimously chosen to represent them in the next parliament, and after the election they went to King Charles the Second's statue in the Parliament Close, and to the Cross, and in both places, with trumpets sounding and the huzzas of a great number of people, drank the Queen's health and to all true Scotsmen.

We hear there are informations taken upon oath of bribery and other corrupt practices at the late election in the west, and that two petitions are thereupon lodged against the author of the Guardian, who, it is said, is returned for Stockbridge, so that his sitting in the House may not be so long as some people expected.

A new commission is ordered for the Board of Trade, and there being three vacancies by removals and death, viz., Lord Winchilsea dead, Francis Gwyn, Esquire, made Secretary at War, and Mr. Foley, made Auditor of the Imprest; the Commissioners now are as follows, viz., Francis Lord Guildford, Sir Philip Meadows, senior, knight, Arthur Moor, Robert Monckton, John Hind Cotton, John Sharp, son to his grace the Archbishop of York, Samuel Pitts, and Thomas Vernon, Esquire. We hear Sir John Stanley, baronet, is made secretary to his grace the Duke of Shrewsbury in his new government of Ireland, and that his grace has appointed new measures to be taken in that kingdom for preventing the carrying Irish wool over to France, which it is hoped may effectually put a stop to that pernicious practice. Sir Francis Child, knight, and alderman of this

city, lies at the point of death, and I hear his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Revd. Dr. Fowler, Bishop of Gloucester, are extremely ill. On Saturday last one Batch, an attorney, shot himself through the head, the same day two women and a boy hanged themselves in other places of this city, and one Jubb, a highwayman, having been convicted at the Old Bailey, but being brought down the same morning to receive sentence of death, cut his throat in the bail dock, he is not yet dead, so that it is thought the work may be still finished at Tyburn.

[JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, September [18-]29, N.S. Utrecht—I took the freedom to trouble your Lordship with a letter from the Hague, where I stayed some days in hopes to find at my return here an agreement between the Lords about the precedency. My Lord Strafford left this place on Wednesday morning, I think rather a little in a huff at my Lord Bishop than well pleased. My Lord Bishop acknowledges that the seals being taken from him, it is my Lord Strafford's and all other Earls' right to take place of him, but what has he done to merit that disgrace, that after he has signed all the treaties here as her Majesty's plenipotentiary, that he should be under any necessity of signing as second the Spanish Treaty of Commerce, which is only the consequence of the treaty of peace, which he has signed as first plenipotentiary; and the more because he has formed that whole Treaty of Commerce into new and regular articles from a rough draft and very irregular and contradictory remarks that were sent over as instructions, and that the full powers being that one may sign for both in absence of the other, where the necessity was of my Lord Strafford's coming up from the Hague to dispute the precedency in the very last act of their negotiation, when my Lord of London's subscription might have served for both, and may be still ordered so to do, otherwise his Lordship must be called home, and that affair of commerce left to be finished by my Lord Strafford, who does not pretend to understand it, and also the differences between Spain and Portugal, so necessary to be adjusted, and now in so fair a way to be left undetermined. I hope your Lordship will be pleased to consider this well, and to fall upon a medium for pleasing both. My Lord Strafford declared that he took leave of Utrecht, and was not to return here again, with the better grace may he be directed to continue at the Hague to get the States to perform their agreement about the trade of the Spanish Netherlands, and to come to some agreement with the States in what manner the government of the Spanish Netherlands shall remain till the Emperor come into the peace, and in what manner and on what conditions the said Netherlands shall be then delivered up to the Emperor.

If this be not firmly agreed upon, depend upon it that the first bargain the States will make with the Emperor, will be to purchase Ostend, as the Genoese have purchased Finale from the Emperor, by which the Milanese are robbed of a seaport, and must now ship off their rice and other products through the Genoese harbours; and if the States do so purchase Ostend, Nieuport having no jurisdiction by the new Dutch barrier, which goes to its

gates, what will become of our British trade to the Spanish Low Countries or to French Flanders, Dunkirk being demolished, how will or may the States General treat all our commerce in general to that great continent behind them, if we have no other way of getting into it without them. Had we not a passage on the one side through Flanders for our trade and on the other side by Bremen and Hamburg into the Empire and its neighbouring countries, what would hinder them from treating our trade as they should think fit. Their advantage always guides their inclinations, and neither the one nor the other is too much in our favour, which is all that I take the freedom to trouble your Lordship with on this subject.

To justify what I have presumed to say of a rough draft of a treaty of commerce with Spain, and some contradictory remarks on the articles which were sent by way of instructions to the Lords, your Lordship will judge of this best by the contra projects or rectified articles made by my Lord Bishop, with the reasons for his alterations, and also reasons for which he differs in his project or form from these remarks sent him. Before I was employed here in the Queen's service, only now and then an article of commerce was shown me or a particular question asked, but now my Lord is so kind, though privately, to let me examine the whole with him, and though I do not deserve or desire the least reputation of anything that is done in it, yet I could heartily wish, as my Lord does, that matters of trade which are subject to the captious humours of parties were very well examined into ere they were agreed upon.

Dining last day with the Marquis de Monteleon, he seemed to complain that he saw nobody on the subject of the Spanish Commerce but Mr. Moore, who, I told him, was one of the Council of Trade, and was certainly well informed, but if your Lordship does not find that affair clear, it will certainly be best to hear Mr. James Dolife, who will also get one Mr. Thomas Bowles, who lived sixteen years at Cadiz, on that subject, and they, betwixt them, will get an understanding merchant who lived at Bilbao, and then any difficulty or grievance will certainly be soon discovered and made clear, for Mr. Dolife, with Mr. Bowles, knows the Cadiz and Malaga trade, and if your Lordship have one of their choosing for the Bilboa trade, if anything is further necessary to be inserted in the articles, they will give a little project of it, and they are people who wish well to your Lordship. Mr. Moore may be made use of to discourse them, but he without men who have been in the practice of that trade cannot be a competent judge of all that concerns it.

I hope your Lordship will be so good to pardon the liberty I take to recommend such things to your serious consideration, though they be out of your province, because you who are at the head of the Ministry, where any ground of complaint appears, must bear the greatest share of the reproach, and the want of some necessary explanations in a former Treaty of Commerce has occasioned already so much dispute and disturbance, though I hope of no consequence, that I would gladly have the like prevented if possible.

The Spanish ambassadors have of late disagreed very much in their negotiations, the Duke de Ossuna has shown himself a true Spaniard, and for the interest of his country to the best of his judgment; he has but little experience, but a great deal of firmness and honesty. The Marquis de Monteleon takes his measures from the French, he is for concluding the peace, and has rather seemed willing to facili-

tate the Dutch peace at our expense than have it longer delayed. However, between the two, our Ministers have made a fair discovery of all their intrigues, and have made a good use of them. My Lord Strafford has had a very good share in keeping the Duke de Ossuna firm, and it is as requisite to have Ministers sometimes to supply pleasures as to maintain good sense. I hope the sum of all will end very soon in the desired conclusion of all the negotiations on foot at this place, and the French having forced the Imperial lines near Freyburg, it is very probable that the reports we hear of the Emperor's going to make peace with France at Basle, in Switzerland, may prove true.

What I had the honour to write to your Lordship from the Hague about the Scots regiments in the Dutch service, I now crave leave to confirm, that the States will keep them if her Majesty is pleased to desire or recommend it, and the province of Holland has been always for keeping them, and are sorry that the reduction of their army is carried so far, considering how formidable the King of Prussia makes himself. The divisions amongst the provinces rather increase than diminish. The Princess of Friesland has been making a tour through the provinces with the young Prince, who, I believe, may be termed the presumptive Statholder; those inclined for him are for declaring him Statholder now in his infancy, and putting him under the guardianship of the Landgrave of Hesse, his mother's father. A few years' peace is liker to produce this than anything I can see, and it seems the only way to preserve this Republic in its power and grandeur.

The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, who are now at Antwerp, I am told desired the late King's house at Breda to live in, which the States should have excused as not being master of it. The Duchess was told lately that she had converted the Bishop of Chester [Dawes] by telling him that the Queen favoured the Pretender; her answer was that all the time she had known the Queen she never heard her speak a favourable word of the Pretender, but that Thing (meaning the Queen) had treated her so barbarously that she would write her secret history, and the miscreants about her (which is the name she gives to the Ministry) had no quarters to hope for but from the Pretender. The Court of Hanover has lately made a sort of declaration to a very honest gentleman, that they have no aversion to the Tories, but only to those concerned in making and forwarding the peace, that they are never to be forgiven. We have had several accounts here from people who ought to know it, of wants of confidence and friendship between your Lordship and Lord Bolingbroke, and that matters were like to go to a great height, and lately that a good lady had reconciled your Lordships since Lord Harley's marriage. I heartily wish that the later report may be true if there has been any difference. I hope your Lordship will pardon the freedom I use in writing this letter, and that you may be pleased to keep it to yourself, being intended only for your service if you can find anything in it. A famous printer, commonly called secretary to the Kitcat Club, is on this side, doing his friends all the service he can. It will not be an ill article in the "Post Boy" that the scandalous pamphlet, called "The History of the late Parliament," is translated and printed at the Hague in Dutch and French, by one formerly his servant, to whom he gave the English copy.

JOHN BARKER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, September 18—I went down frankly and freely upon my own expenses to Nottingham upon the election of members, and voted according to Lord Middleton's dictates. Sacheverell had 773 votes, Wareing 752; Plumtree had but 620, and Gregory 532. As I ever endeavoured to serve the Crown and you to the best of my power, I hope that it may please you to warrant me as a tidesman in fee.

MATTHEW DECKER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, September 19. London—Last Tuesday I arrived here from Holland, and went immediately to your house in order to assure of my duty, and likewise to acquaint you what further discourse I have had with Heinsius, Fagel, and others, who have all charged me with their humble respects to your Lordship; but I had the misfortune not to find you at home.

COLONEL DOUGLAS to [the EARL OF MAR?].

1713, September [19-]30, N.S. Fontainebleau—The Earl of Dundonald being to give your Lordship this letter, I have spoken to him about the project of raising a Scots regiment, which I believe may be useful in time, particularly for the ancient kingdom, to be composed of such only as your Lordship shall recommend of your friends. If this project takes with the present Ministry of Great Britain, so that the Queen will allow me to recruit in Scotland, I am almost sure it will meet with no great difficulties at the French Court, it being for their interest infinitely. If the Duke D'Aumont is still in London you would oblige me singularly to speak to him of the project, for it was he who spoke to me first of it.

Postscript.—Direct "à Monsieur le Comte Douglas, à l'Hotel d'Espagne, rue de Seine, faubourg St. Germain à Paris."

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to the LORD TREASURER.

1713, September 21. Windsor Castle—Mr. Ross has been here and I find expected, by what your Lordship was pleased to say to him, that he should have been declared Envoy to the Court of France before his going to Scotland, which he says he cannot defer beyond Wednesday or Thursday next. I therefore desire to have your Lordship's orders what you would have me say to the Queen, and write to Prior.

There will be an absolute necessity of a committee on Thursday, unless your Lordship has any objection to that day. The business of Ireland is I think pretty well settled, so as to save the appearances for the Council, and yet calm the minds of men, and prevent the confusion; the Mayor is to offer two of the same persons and one new one to the aldermen to choose.

Postscript.—The Queen is perfectly well.

FRANCIS IREDELL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, September 23. [Dublin]—The House of Lords in their last session of Parliament here, having complained in their representation to her Majesty of new erections of Dissenting congregations, where

there had been none before, this has animated the clergy and others in many parts of the kingdom to give us frequent disturbances, as particularly in the affair of Belturbet, and your Lordship is already apprised of the great trouble and charge that the dissenting ministers of the Presbytery of Monaghan were put to on that account, and though, through your favourable interposal in that matter, it was at last brought to an amicable accommodation upon terms that the Government here expressed their satisfaction in, particularly that of removing their places of meeting out of the town, yet the Dean and Vicar-General of the diocese have sent up a new representation to the Lords Justices (backed with a certificate from the town) complaining of the continuance of that meeting, and of the design of building a meeting-house there, though the place where it is building is above a mile distant from the town, and we do not yet fully know what the Lords Justices will do on that complaint, though we hope it will be dropped. Besides this, there are fresh complaints sent to the Government against some dissenting ministers for sermons occasionally preached in other places upon the earnest desire of a considerable number of dissenting inhabitants in them, and there are some colonies of Presbyterians from the North of Ireland that are like to be planted upon some of the forfeited lands sold by the trustees (which by Act of Parliament cannot be set to Papists), and we foresee that the settlement of ministers of their own persuasion among them is like to meet with warm opposition, and to occasion fresh disturbance on the pretence of there being new erections.

We are highly sensible of your Lordship's great goodness in employing your interest to preserve our religious liberty where it has been hitherto struck at, for which we return our most grateful acknowledgments, and we would as much as possible prevent the giving you any further trouble of that kind without the last necessity, and therefore since her Majesty has been pleased to appoint a new Lord Lieutenant for this kingdom, and it is probable he may come with some particular instructions in reference to the Protestant dissenters of Ireland, we make it our most humble request to your Lordship, that you would please to use your interest with her sacred Majesty to procure such favourable ones as may secure to us the free exercise of our religion, and such as may prevent as far as possible any chargeable and vexatious prosecutions on the account of any of our ministers preaching to a competent number of people of our persuasion wherever they are regularly called thereto.

I might mention to your Lordship new troubles given lately to our brethren in the north, on the account of their marriages, but am not willing to be tedious by insisting on particular instances.

Colin Campbell to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, September 26—One article which Lord Breadalbane insisted upon was that your Lordship would be pleased to send down a man entrusted by you, independent of the Highlanders, who should make a faithful report of the truth of what is proposed. This would make all the Highlanders easy, since they would be assured of your commands being transmitted to them without bias. Lord Breadalbane ordered me to name one to your Lordship who would be very acceptable to the Highlanders, and to him and other Highland lords, and that was Captain Ogilby.

A strong reason for this is the mismanagement of Appin and Mr. Cameron, in pretending commissions when they had none, and giving partial accounts, to which Captain Ogilby cannot be liable, since he has no interest but your Lordship's and truth, and is known too by the Highlanders to be a man of undoubted probity and honour.

RUSSELL ROBARTES to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, September 26. Paris—Since my Lord Radnor managed his affairs so ill as to dispose of so fine an estate from his family as Wimpole, after having laid out at least 20,000*l.* there, I most heartily rejoice that it is now in your Lordship's family, together with so great an estate as I presume that young lady has brought with her.

If your Lordship's affairs should require some other person to have my employment in the Exchequer, I hope you will let me reside as the Queen's envoy at the Hague, having now a mind to continue abroad for two or three years; or I am ready to serve at Brussels in the same character Lord Orrery had there.

LORD BARNARD to — NETTERVILLE, in the Haymarket.

[1713,] September 28. Fairlawn—Many thanks, my good friend, for the pleasant news you send me of a peace to be soon published. None can be more impatient to see it than myself, even like to a stale virgin that cries, Any, good Lord, any. Nothing else can establish this poor nation quiet, or be able to conjure down the ill spirits that has so long tormented it. As for private news, since yours affords none, I have nothing to thank you for, only I must tell you I have read in a wise book, I think the Duke of Rochefoucauld, that one should never make complaints for injuries received, lest it encourages others to use you in the same manner. Now I fancy if I had not resented so much the ill usage for my lead concern our sorry Bishop durst never have put so public an affront upon me in the face of my country, unless by the Queen's orders, which I cannot believe, having never deserved it from her, but I hope on the contrary.

Therefore on the whole, since I know not what may happen next, and I think my title to my money so good as needs no mending, I must desire you will no longer make me and yourself uneasy to our noble Lord, for whom I have the greatest respect in the world. I shall only lament my own misfortune that I am not qualified to render him the service my heart inclines me to.

[THE DUKE OF SHREWSBURY to .]

1713, September 29—I have the favour of yours of the 18-29 Sept., and should not have troubled you so soon but for the surprise I was in to find you had a successor declared before it was determined in what manner you were to be provided for at your return. I spoke both to Lord Treasurer and Lord Bolingbroke of the hardship of this proceeding, they both express themselves to the last degree satisfied with your conduct, and sincerely kind to you, and the first assured me something should be done to your satisfaction. I am confident he means it, and I hope will be mindful to perform his word. I cannot express my surprise to find by your letter to Lord Bolingbroke that

the French Ministers begin so notorious a chicane as to pretend that the 8th and 9th article of the Treaty of Commerce are so much the foundation of the rest, that till they be made effectual no other part is binding in the Treaty itself, there is little ground for such a cavil, and when it was known at Marly that the English Parliament had disagreed to these articles, no such pretence was started. When we discoursed Mons. Desmarets about taking off the fifty sols, he made no objection to the doing it, as the Treaty stipulates, but scrupled to take it off three months before we did. I hope they will think better than to suffer themselves to be engaged in a dispute where they have so little reason on their side, and will lose them all their friends here; for my own part I shall be obliged to retract what I have said in commendation of the fairness of their proceeding, and am certain if this were known to the nation, it would revive in everybody's mind their manner of interpreting treaties formerly, which as it raised all mankind against them, proved in the end as prejudicial to their interest, as their honour.

I write this in the greatest hurry imaginable, preparing for my journey to Ireland, which I propose to begin about fifteen days hence, and having now twenty people waiting for me upon that account, so that without compliment.—Adieu.

Viscount Bolingbroke to the Earl of Oxford.

1713, September—I have talked to Bingley so much of the consequence of having an able minister in Spain, and of the difficulty we are under to find one, that I believe a little shove from your Lordship would determine him, especially if he had hopes that he should not be kept in exile longer than the real necessity required.

I enclose to your Lordship a petition [*missing*] in Mr. Taylor's name, but really on my own account, it relates to the matter which three weeks ago I talked to you of. If your Lordship will oblige me so far as to let this affair succeed, I hope you will represent it to the Queen not so much as a grant that I ask, but as a trial which it may be for her service to make. The expense is to be mine, and the loss if it fails; if it succeeds, the Queen will have an immediate advantage by the rent which your Lordship shall think proper to reserve during the term of the lease, and after the expiration of the lease the Crown will reap the whole benefit of the discovery. This perhaps may lead the way to recover other estates of the Crown. The people concerned in this, and who undertake it, are to be at one quarter of the expense and to have one-fourth of the profit under the lease. If you think fit to do any thing in it, the proper step is to send it to the Chancellor of the Duchy; and before him or the Attorney the Queen's title will be indisputably made out.

A. Carleton to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, October 1. Carleton, near Penrith—I have been in this country since July 27, and have had two verdicts for Mrs. Mary Carleton of this place, at Carlisle assizes, which was my chief business here, as I gave your Lordship an account before I left London, I being in trust for her.

There have been but four or five rainy days here since August 6; so that in the memory of man there has not been a better harvest

in this country and got well in. There grows little wheat or barley in this county, or in Westmorland; but great plenty of oats, rye, and big [*i.e.* barley]. There is good fish, fowl, mutton, and venison, but little fruit and but indifferent good, but pretty good beef, especially at this market, for which this part of the country is obliged in general to the memory of my Lady Dorrell (when Mr. Carleton of this place's wife), who was the first, about twenty-four years ago, that gave the butchers good prices to kill good oxen. The veal here is very indifferent, there is as good bread here as any in England.

I have several times waited upon my Lord Lonsdale, who is a great hunter and a good natured, courteous gentleman, but I fear in ill hands. Last day I was at Lowther, my Lord Burlington was there and after a fortnight's stay went last Monday for Yorkshire. He appears to be a good natured, pretty gentleman, but is in the same hands. My Lord Lonsdale usually drinks first the Queen, then every man in course toasts his lady; for the church, nor no man's health is in fashion amongst the great ones hereabout. However this country of all ranks (except the justices of the peace and lieutenancy) are five in six High Church, and it is generally believed Sir Christ. Musgrave with the charge of 400*l.* or 500*l.* at most would have thrown out Mr. Lawson had he stood candidate for this county.

I have been near thirty miles round this place to see my relations (never having been here before) and find in most places that her Majesty's interest suffers much for want of good justices of the peace, some to be put in and some out, especially about this part of the country; and an active lord lieutenant is much wanted in these parts, and it is even difficult in these two counties to get men fitly qualified to put in the Commission without putting in some more of the clergy, and in my most humble opinion it would be much to the advantage of her Majesty's service if the Dean of Carlisle and Dr. Todd were of that number, being both very good men, and men of knowledge, integrity, courage, and civility; all in one person are very scarce here.

The late Lord Lonsdale was my good friend and distant relation in blood, yet since a little after his death I had not seen the young lord till I met him hunting at Mr. Howard's of Greystoke, where was none (except myself) but Whigs and (silent) Papists. So with good manners and a freedom so remarkable that it has been taken notice of by all the gentlemen hereabouts, I strenuously opposed and confuted his Lordship and all the table of their Whig arguments; some did or would have taken it ill, if they had known how to help it; but my Lord was pleased to take it very well, toasted Mrs. Mary Carleton's health, and told me I should be welcome to Lowther when I pleased and as long as I would; so I have gone several times, and upon all occasions have acted as before, and always toasting (when my toast) High Church ladies, not forgetting the duty I owe your Lordship's family. I verily believe that with good management he might be brought off from the Whigs, which would be a public good and a great happiness to this country, for his Lordship's interest and Musgrave's jointly would lead these two counties which way they would.

This place called Carleton has, by the history of my family, been without interruption in my name and blood since before the Norman Conquest, and by the roll in the Pipe Office of a survey taken 3 Hen. III., and ever since it appears upon record to have been possessed by my ancestors, one of which was William de Carleton, Baron and Chief

Baron of the Exchequer about 20 years, commencing about 20th Edward I. Sir William Carleton, my grandfather's eldest brother, almost ruined and much lessened the estate in the civil wars; and the late Mr. Carleton's wives, viz., my Lady Dorrell and Mrs. Lowther (now the Governor of Barbadoes' wife) have completed it; so that it must be sold, and in all likelihood go out of my name and blood, but if your Lordship would generously be pleased to order me the payment of 1,860*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, that is allowed to be due to me from the Crown, with the help of my friends, and what I have myself I would purchase the estate for about 4,400*l.*; and if I did not in less than seven years do the Queen at least equivalent service in this country, I would be content to article to be hanged. There are but four, or at most but five places in all this country that rival it, and truly there is not a more pleasant or better situated seat in these two counties, not Lowther itself. I most humbly beg your Lordship's most generous assistance and pardon this humble freedom and too much trouble.

GODFREY WENTWORTH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, October 4—Assures his Lordship that it had never entered into his thoughts to offer his service to the borough of Aldborough until Sir Arthur Kaye told him that Mr. Foley desired to engage him for it. Asks his Lordship's recommendation for that borough in case Mr. Dawney should choose to stand for Pontefract. Shall be proud to receive his commands addressed to Hickleton, near Doncaster.

W. STUBBE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, October 5. Cook's Court, near Lincoln's Inn—If it is not too late I humbly beg your Lordship to favour my pretensions to the bishopric of Bristol. If I compass this design, I would gladly spend the remainder of my life in promoting the true interest of my country, a pleasure your Lordship has tasted in a very eminent degree.

HENRY CRISPE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, October 6. Custom House—Has received from Cambridge two other copies [*missing*] of Mr. Walpole's vile speech at his election at Lynn, which, though differing in some words or expressions, are a stronger confirmation of the truth thereof. Such a refined piece of insolence and audacious reviling of the Queen, his Lordship, the whole ministry, and both houses of Parliament might be worthy of his cognizance.

J. D' ALAIS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, October [6-]17, N.S. Hanover—Mr. Daniel Burgess, son of the famous Presbyterian minister of that name, is come here from Holland about a month ago, and has brought to M. Robethon a letter of recommendation from M. Bothmer. He designs to continue here under pretence of learning French, and told me he was well known to your Lordship, and had written to know if you had any commands for him. Having been informed he receives letters from the Duke of St. Albans, I suspect he may be employed by some who are no friends to the Ministry; therefore I cannot but have a watchful eye upon him to inform myself better what may be his business.

The Earl of Findlater to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, October 8. Edinburgh—Since I came to this place we have been constantly employed in securing the election; all the Squadrone came to town, as did the Earl of Ilay and the Duke of Argyll's friends, but after all their endeavours they had but a small number of the peers for them, not above twenty-three in town or by proxies, and finding their number so small, they thought fit to absent from the meeting, so that the election was carried without either protest or objection, there being thirty-six peers present and twenty-six proxies. Those we recommended are all elected, and I hope we shall be found all unanimous in her Majesty's service, and faithful friends, where your Lordship may have any concern. Her Majesty's servants acted unanimously and without any contests; the Earl of Mar's friends and mine did their parts faithfully. I had the honour to have the proxies of the two Lords of my name. The Earl of Lauderdale did cheerfully concur, and has a most dutiful sense of the assurances your Lordship has given of taking him under your protection.

As for the post her Majesty has been pleased to confer on me it gives universal satisfaction here to see it restored, and I am convinced it will be found useful. The town of Edinburgh takes all methods to express its gratitude upon that account. Had we been here sooner the election of the Commons had gone on better; however there are several of those we elected have promised to be directed by me, so that I hope to have the satisfaction to be useful to the Queen and your Lordship when I return. I received the compliments of the Church by seven of their number; in their discourse they seemed to be apprehensive of designs to overturn their constitution. I told them if they laid aside their jealousies and carried themselves dutifully to the Queen, and peaceably to those tolerated by law, they may be assured of protection in their churches, stipends, and exercise of their ministry; they returned me their humble thanks.

I have an account of your Lordship giving me a quarter's pension, of which I am very sensible, and return you my humble acknowledgments, and I depend upon your promise in paying up my arrears to Michaelmas. I shall give an account of the Commons elections when they are all over.

Postscript.—I presume to send your Lordship a list of the peers elected, and the electors, and intreat you may do me the honour to present the enclosed to the Queen.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, October 9—I had not sent again so soon to your Lordship, having your orders to attend to-morrow, but on this extraordinary occasion.

I am surprised with notice given me from Mr. Borrett that, notwithstanding all that has been said, and your orders to him, they are proceeding formally against me on account of the old affair of the three pamphlets, and that if you are not pleased to interpose I shall be made a sacrifice to a party who would sacrifice your Lordship and the Queen also, if it lay in their power. I cannot forget that you were pleased to assure me of your protection, and that I should receive no prejudice by this affair. Indeed, I have no other guilt than is included in my zeal for your interest and her Majesty's service,

and their rage at me is founded purely on my serving the public, and it would be very hard if I should fall by the hand of that very government I am serving. The Attorney General sends me word I must petition the Queen, and that there is no other way to be effectually safe, but to obtain her Majesty's pardon, and says this must be laid before your Lordship immediately.

I have no other method but to do as directed, and have therefore sent a petition, which I humbly beg your Lordship's help in, having no other protection against these furious men than your intercession and her Majesty's clemency. Mr. Moore has promised to be the bearer of my petition to your Lordship. They have sent to me today to take out a copy of the information, which is a charge together with the following which I am no way able to support.

General James Stanhope to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, October 9—I request the favour of your Lordship that you will be pleased to ascertain the debt owing to me as Minister abroad, the reason of my application to your Lordship is, that I am in a different case from all others who have served abroad. Your Lordship knows that the method hath constantly been that they should be paid till their return to the Queen's presence, and by their privy seal they seem to be entitled to a legal right to claim their appointments to such time; but since it was my misfortune to be twenty months a prisoner, during which time I was disabled to do her Majesty any service, and that her Majesty was besides most graciously pleased to continue to me during the said time my military appointments, I refer myself as to what I might further pretend to, entirely to the goodness of her Majesty, and what I now humbly beg of your Lordship is that you will know her pleasure concerning it, and whatever shall be granted to me beyond the day that I was taken prisoner, I shall acknowledge as a favour, owing to your Lordship's intercession for me. Thus much only I will affirm to your Lordship, that during the first six months after my misfortune, I was necessarily obliged to be at as great, if not at a greater, expense than any time before, and that was occasioned by an uncommon hardship put upon me by the enemy, who, refusing to give passports to any of my domestics, obliged me to keep a very great family and equipage. Having barely hinted this much to your Lordship, I do again, as before, wholly submit myself to what her Majesty shall be pleased to determine in it, only begging that it may be determined.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, October 10. Edinburgh—I hope the sixteen peers chosen will be agreeable to her Majesty, and I am persuaded that as we were unanimously elected, we will also be unanimous in the House of Lords and our several countries to support her.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, October 10—This cruel weather has brought a pain into my foot, which makes me afraid to venture to Windsor. I beg you to present my most humble duty to the Queen, and desire her acceptance of a very fine lioness, which was sent me from the Governor of Fort St. George.

I wish I might presume to ask your Lordship to mention to her Majesty her promise to plant some forest trees in Bushey Park. When you do me the honour to allow me to show you what I have done to beautify her Park, you will think I deserve so much countenance.

HENRY DAVENANT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, October 10. Windsor—At this time when the foreign employments are to be settled, I must beg leave to put your Lordship in mind that my pretensions are older than any other, having been in the service near twelve years, and having received credentials of your Lordship's own drawing, to go to Ratisbon with an increase of salary; it was afterwards thought more necessary I should remain at Frankfort to attend the motions of the Prince of Baden, so in regard to the service I was at that time deprived of one good the Queen intended me, but assurances were given me I should be no loser by it.

About two years and a half ago I had yet greater marks of the Queen's favour, and received her Majesty's letter signifying to me that she had appointed me her Envoy Extraordinary to Switzerland, and for five months together I received letters from my Lord Bolingbroke from time to time to hold myself ready, and prepare for that expedition, which I accordingly did, made a considerable expense towards it, and was ready to move upon the first notice. I was told I was only directed to stay at Frankfort till further orders, my presence being necessary upon the Emperor's death. I continued till Lord Peterborough came, and judged it proper to dispatch me to England; or rather famine drove me thence. I have also laboured under large arrears, but that I bore with patience, it being a common calamity, to which I must add that the uncertainty of my affairs has all along compelled me to keep a family abroad, which it was not in my power to discharge for want of money; besides the doing it would have given me an air of flying from my debts, which was not for the Queen's credit.

I hope better from your Lordship's goodness than to think the vacancies are all supplied without any consideration had of me, and am confident your generosity has reserved some post for one actually upon the establishment, according to the hopes that have been given me from time to time.

LORD FALKLAND to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, October 11—Lord Harwich is dead, and his regiment consequently becomes vacant. I have served her Majesty ever since her accession to the Crown, was, by the Duke of Ormond, first made captain in Col. Pierce's regiment, now Col. Borole's, until 1705-6, when I was made Lieut.-Colonel to that regiment, and served so in Spain till 1710, when by injustice done me, I quitted that post and was made captain in the Guards, in which post I still serve. When taken prisoner I lost 500*l.* in my baggage; indeed, what little money of my own I had, I spent in the Queen's service abroad.

I must own there are several officers in the army who have served longer than I have, but your Lordship knows it has ever been the custom of all nations to prefer men of quality to others, though of longer service.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, October 16—If a stranger were to make a judgment from the hurry the town is in at this juncture, and from the rage and elevation of a set of deluded people on the success they promise themselves in the city election, he would conclude the sum of affairs depended upon these four members, and that the fate of the Government was determined by the city election.

Although the victory, if they should gain it, may be of much less consequence than they imagine, yet I hope it will assist her Majesty's friends to apply themselves to the giving some needful check to this insolence, which is really come to such a height that it calls aloud for the just resentment of the Government. Were the House of Hanover to know how they are thrown in the face of every honest man, upon all disputes of this nature, they would easily see that nothing can weaken their true interest more than to make them a terror to the people whom they are to govern. To have English liberty awed with the apprehension of the successor is to make that successor odious as well as terrible, and arm men's minds with aversions to them, and by consequence put them upon considering whether they ought to admit or oppose them.

I know you are sensible what these men drive at, and I hope are sufficiently prepared to disappoint them; the Shibboleth of Trade is now artfully put into the mouths of the people, and the Parliament will be thronged with clamorous petitions on the subject, if some vigorous and speedy resolution does not repulse them at first. They promise themselves to put the whole nation in the same ferment they have done the city. I have many expedients to offer you on this affair if you would be pleased to admit me at proper times to attend for that purpose; no question but some way may be proposed to put a stop to this fury.

I shall attend in the evening as by your command, and humbly acknowledge in the meantime your goodness in delivering me from the danger I was in, by which I hope I shall with greater composure apply myself to your service.

The Earl of Orrery to [John] Drummond, her Majesty's Commissary at Utrecht.

1713, October 16. London—I have been lately in the country for some little time, which has hindered me from answering sooner the favour of your letter of the 18th of September. The affairs of the Netherlands I think are more and more neglected here if possible, and I find there is an opinion that the less the Queen concerns herself in them the better. I wish this neglect may not be carried too far, and the interest of Britain, as well as the Queen's honour, suffer too much by it. I was not consulted in the step that has been lately taken in this matter, if I had, I should have given my opinion against it, for I think it one of the worst expedients that could have been pitched upon. I should be glad there was a prospect of the Queen's soon ridding her hands of that administration and of the Emperor's putting himself into a condition of receiving the government by making his peace, for that war cannot be continued at the rate it is without aggrandizing too much the power of France, and endangering the liberties of Europe. I am afraid a great many people in England

begin already to be alarmed upon this, as well as some other accounts, and these apprehensions may possibly be very prejudicial to the Ministry, who do not yet seem to take the necessary measures to give all proper satisfaction to the nation in general, or to their particular friends. I never thought I could ever be brought to consent upon any terms to leave England any more; but this prospect of disputes and squabbles here, and the inclination I always shall have to serve my country to the utmost of my ability, overruled me in this particular, and I offered my service to relieve my Lord Strafford for two or three years in Holland, and to do at the same time the business of the Netherlands, upon terms that I thought rather advantageous to the Queen than myself, but I have yet no reason to believe this proposal will be accepted. If it is not I shall give over all thoughts of returning to Brussels or concerning myself any more in those affairs. I think the Queen is inclined to save the charge of an Ambassador, and to send only an Envoy to the Hague, and I am resolved never to go abroad again with the same character I did. My Lord Strafford is now expected, I believe, very soon, and upon his arrival I suppose some positive resolution will be taken upon this head. I have so much respect for the States, and I think it so absolutely necessary for us to keep a firm friendship with them, that if I do not go I wish somebody else may be sent with the same sentiments in relation to them that I have.

HARRY BRIDGES, High Sheriff of Somersetshire, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, October 18. Keynsham, in Somerset—We here begin to partake of the good effects of the most ignominious peace the French nation ever accepted at our hands, for their ancestors outdid ours as we do them.

More such fairs for cloth as that at Wells Monday last would beggar the town, for by ten o'clock there was not one piece unsold, which sent the dealers out of town instead of filling the inns with what they had no trade for, and spend their money to fetch it again. This has not been known these twenty years, and although the price of wool does not yet keep pace, we may thank the manufacturers for it, who combine to grind the farmer as they do the poor, and being most of the schismatical sort, do all they can to "appropink" the Jews.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, October 19—Having your commands to think on the expedients I mentioned in my last, with relation to the French trade, which occasions such a hurry in the nation at this time, I presume to offer a few generals, preliminary to further thoughts on that affair, which, if you give me leave to attend at your leisure, I would gladly explain myself upon.

It is most certain the party are fallen into this clamour about trade, not from their zeal for our commerce but for a handle, and to raise a party against the Ministry.

Suppose then (though it is hoped it may be otherwise) there should be some difficulty in or room to doubt of carrying the bill against them, or of doing it so easily as might be desired. May not the

Ministry proceed by another method, and if the bill cannot be brought down to the trade, bring the trade up to the bill? By this means the treaty shall be made effectual without bringing the bill in at all, and in one session more, or perhaps the same session, the very Portugal merchants themselves shall beg to have the bill brought in, and the Ministry in the meantime not run the risk of receiving any affront from the party to their eternal mortification and disappointment. I was loth to communicate this to any till you had given me your leave to do so, and had determined whether it has weight in it or no; I am persuaded it will be an effectual step to put a check to this broil, and if you approve it I shall endeavour to give you a full satisfaction in the method and shall attend to-morrow in the evening, according to your command.

I beg your leave to mention once more my own affair, Mr. Borrett giving me still reason to fear, that if it be not effectually done before the term, I may be still insulted by this enraged party. If you were to know how I am treated by them, your own known generous principles would move you to pity and to protect a faithful servant from a generation of men who have neither justice nor compassion. I humbly also lay before you my other circumstance, the quarter being expired some time, and having no subsistence but in your goodness and her Majesty's bounty, having also received not one penny on the other affair which your Lordship knows of, which increases my importunities, for which I humbly ask your pardon.

Robert Davis to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, October 20. Leith—The experience I had of your Lordship's generosity and goodness, encourages me to presume to give you this trouble, for understanding by the public prints, that your Lordship's son has got a patent from her Majesty for fishing up plate lost on the coast of America, I presume to acquaint you that I have one of the best diving engines that ever was made, with pipes and everything thereto belonging, which I have often proven in presence of many witnesses, as the enclosed certificate will confirm. I have lately brought it from the Lizard, to the house of Mr. James, this bearer, in order to have brought it here, for the Earl of Morton proffered me very good encouragement, to have gone along with him to Zealand and dived upon some Dutch East India ships lost there, that is rich in chests of silver and gold. But I am settled here in my trade of ship building, and married to a very tender loving wife, who will on no account submit to my going any more in the engine, though I might have the Indies for going one fathom under the water. So I am resolved I will do nothing that will be such a trouble to her; though she were not my wife she is a gentlewoman, and a very deserving person. Your Lordship may please inform your son of it, he shall have it for 50*l*. I doubt not but the Earl Morton would give me much more for it, but my wife will not hear of its coming into this country, lest I should be tempted to go down in it myself, and indeed if I were to dive any more I would not part with it for ten times what I demand for it, for I am very certain it is the best ever was made, it cost some hundreds of pounds, doing and undoing, making and marring, before it was brought to that perfection. There are many pretend to be engineers, but have given little proof of their skill. It is well known by many gentlemen in Cornwall, as Sir Richard Vivian,

Mr. Billott, and many others, who saw me there and knew my performance. I hope your Lordship has not forgot me, I had the honour to attend you on Mr. Alexander Goldsmith's [De Foe's] account.

Postscript.—This bearer, Mr. Alex. James, who lives in Longditch, Westminster, was at the Lizard when I was there, and knows the excellence of my engine, and saw me go down in it, if your Lordship pleases to discourse him he will give a very true and faithful account.

Enclosure.

We, whose names are hereunto set, inhabitants of the Lizard parish, in the county of Cornwall, do certify that Mr. Robert Davis did, in his diving engine, go down in the sea several fathoms deep under water, at a place called Purpeare Cove, and did sing the hundredth Psalm under water, and afterwards go several times under water in his said engine at the Bumble Rocks, where were taken up several bars or pigs of silver, some years ago. We do further declare that there have been several persons with divers sorts of diving engines in order to go under water at the silver wreck aforesaid; but none of them could ever go down that depth the said Davis did; nor were their engines so completely contrived for going under water as the said Mr. Davis's engine is. To the truth of the premises we have set our hands this five and twentieth day of September, 1704.

Signed by Bernard John, Constantine Hocking, Thomas Sampson, Roger Michell, Thomas and Richard Richards, and Roger James.

THE EARL OF FINDLATER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, October 20. Edinburgh—Reminding him that he had agreed to give Mr. Abercrombie, unanimously elected for the shire of Banff, 300*l.*, and a like sum to Mr. Reid, who would probably be elected for the shire of Aberdeen, for their services to the Queen, and the great expenses incurred therein; and urging the issue of a Commission for a Council of Trade in Scotland.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

[1713, October 22. *Received*]—Nothing is more plain than that the disputes upon the subject of the commerce with France are carried on, not merely as a dispute about trade, which most of the people, now so hot about it, understand little of, but as an arrow shot at the present administration, a handle taken hold of, and an opportunity which they think is given them to raise a tumult against the Ministry and enflame the people. It had been to be wished that the Ministry had laid less stress, or at least seemed to do so, upon this affair at first; but rather laid it before them as a thing indifferent to the Ministry whether it was accepted or refused; then there is reason to believe they would soon have desired the trade, because those who understood trade would have seen the loss of it, and those who did not would have been left out of the question.

It may so happen still, that the clamour of the rabbles they have raised may prevail to prepossess the members and make it doubtful.

If the Ministry are not certain to carry it through both Houses, the better way seems to be to lay it aside at first, and not bring it to the question till some other steps may be taken which may let men see their mistake, and bring those very men to seek it who now oppose it.

Two sorts of men began the opposition against the bill. All that have followed are come into it as a party question, not as a trading question.

1. The Portugal merchants on the account of the trade they drive in Portugal wine, in which their arguments are specious with respect to our woollen manufactures, but not of any weight in the general argument of commerce.

2. The Dutch, of whom this is to be said in few words, they are very desirous that we should be excluded the French trade that they may carry it on themselves.

That the Dutch are against our trade with France is in itself a reason why we ought to open that trade and more need not be said to it. That the Portugal merchants are against it is plainly opposing a private interest to a public good.

Supposing then that the Ministry find it reasonable to lay aside the debate for a few days, and be pleased to let them suppose it was quite laid aside and looked upon by the Ministry as a thing indifferent to them whether it passed or no. In the meantime as the House, of course, comes to consider of ways and means for raising money silently among other things some of the following duties may be proposed. A duty on all foreign wrought silks, except French, the duty of which is high enough already; a duty on wines of Galicia, Leghorn called Florence, Portugal and Malaga.

All the weavers, Turkey and East India merchants, will come into the first, and the opposition to the last will be but from a few private merchants. This is what I call bringing the trade up to the bill, for as I conceive the treaty does not oblige the English to take off or not to lay any duties on French goods, provided that our duties on other goods of the like quality are the same. When the Portugal merchants shall see the House resolved to lay higher duties on their trade they will choose the Bill of Commerce rather than the high duties for many reasons.

First, because such additional duties straiten them in their trade, requiring greater stocks to carry it on, (2) lessen the consumption in general, and (3) the French wines will outsell them much more in proportion when both are at a high price than when both were lower.

It will at the same time be easier to bring in a clause to take off the eight pounds per ton upon French wine formerly spoken of; and the French and Portugal wines shall be brought very near a par.

Thus the Portugal merchants will be put to a full stand, and the letter of the Treaty of Commerce be exactly complied with in making the duties equal.

I am persuaded making a motion towards it, or but passing a vote for it in the House first, before the Bill of Commerce is proposed, would effectually bring all the Portugal and Italian merchants over to the bill, and bring them to beg for one to avoid the other.

The objections from the Portugal Treaty and the threats of prohibiting our trade in Portugal are all to be answered another way. Her Majesty is not without means in her own hands to keep the King of Portugal in temper, or to bring him to reason if he should pretend to resent it, and if not, the merchants have themselves to blame for the consequences, who would make the Portugal wine trade a monopoly and oblige the Government to support an exclusive trade to some of her Majesty's subjects to the injury of the rest.

By the same method the duties on wrought silk will be brought to an equality, so that the Dutch, who now enjoy a great trade with us, by the excluding the French, will either come to an equality with the French or not import any silk at all, which our weavers will have no reason to repine at.

Note.—The Dutch have great reason to desire the duties on French Alamodes and Lustrings should remain, because they have all that trade now in their own hands, and run them on shore here in such quantities as has quite overthrown the English manufacture of Alamodes and Lustrings.

The linen and paper, canvas, sail-cloth, dowlasses, &c., will all admit the same method, and with this advantage, that the manufacturing the like goods in Scotland, Ireland, and the North of England will be thereby encouraged.

But there is great reason to believe that a quietly beginning the method above with the silk and the wine, will at once allay all the clamours at the Bill of Commerce, and bring all the merchants over to submit to it. The question of how much the said duties should be is reserved to a calculation of the proportion between the duties already charged on both sides.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Commerce, Proposal of an Accommodation."

[John Drummond to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713 [October 22-]November 1, N.S. Hague—I have been here some time to procure from the States what has been so long agreed upon with them for the ease of our trade to the Spanish Netherlands, and my Lord Strafford has been pleased to own that I understand my business, and that my assistance has been of some use to him, and reproached me for not coming sooner, though I had his orders to stay at Utrecht. I have now good reason to think that the States will do us justice at last, and the French do pretend that their threatenings do contribute at least as much to it as our good manners.

My Lord Strafford sets out to-morrow for England to take possession of the riches left him by my Lady Rawstorne, his lady's grandmother, and at the same time to instruct the Queen's ministers how to serve her Majesty to the best of his judgment. His resentment about the precedency he will manage with all manner of prudence, unless you force him to the contrary. He will show your Lordship that the centre of the affairs of Europe will still remain at the Hague (though I hoped that Whitehall should have had some share in them), and that therefore Mr. Bromley ought to send him copies of all dispatches to the foreign courts. He is very angry with my Lord Bolingbroke for writing to the Bishop that if new full powers were sent he would take care that the Bishop should have the precedency in them. This he takes worst of all, and I am afraid did extort a sight of this letter from the honest old gentleman. He says that your Lordship's excuse about the precedency is not well founded, because the letters from the Secretary's office came addressed to the Bishop as Bishop of London, and that you now make him Bishop of Bristol again to serve the turn, because Dr. Smalridge has refused to accept of the bishopric; and he says also that your Lordship does not pay him his three thousand pounds a year as first Commissioner of the Admiralty, and I believe he would much rather be master of the horse, a Duke,

and his lady one of the ladies of the bed-chamber, but though these should not happen immediately, he is willing to return Ambassador here if the plenipoteniary's place at Brussels be at the same time put under his Commission. For my part I wish we had one of his courage and resolution there; he has served well and is really capable of serving well. I wish the love of money may not increase to avarice of the greatest degree, but I hope honour will prevent its growth. Meantime his resentment for all that's past will not go beyond his interest or anywise endanger the benefices he is in possession of.

I am afraid that corruption does not cease to be in fashion at Brussels. The new minister there desires leave to levy new regiments, when that poor country can hardly pay those that are levied. My Lord Strafford told me as a compliment at my arrival here last week, that he had recommended me to the Grand Pensionary, and had given such an account of me that he had declared his desire to see me. I could hardly think that the old gentleman had kept so long secret that he knew me, and I had been even the evening before with him to show the injustice of their treatment to us in the Spanish Netherlands; and he is pleased to assure me that before I return to Utrecht he will bring matters to my satisfaction, but insists that the Queen ought to put them in possession of the Castle of Ghent, according to the treaty of barrier, and also to join with them to obtain the million of guilders yearly from the Spanish Netherlands, and then they would make the Queen easy about Ostend.

I had almost forgot to give your Lordship an account of some conversation which I had with the Pensionary, who would have me write to your Lordship about the Spanish peace, and to see that my Lord Strafford might be instructed to work on the Duke de Ossuna that he might desist from the guarantee for the Princess des Ursins. I told him that it was properest for him to write, for that it might be taken ill of me, and that I was sure that if he could prevail with the Duke de Ossuna to quit the Queen of her guarantee, that your Lordship would never desire nor wish that the States might engage themselves in any guarantee which might at any time lay them under the least suspicion of danger. He said that when the States signed the peace with the Queen, he hoped that the Queen would always employ her good offices for them, and that all jealousies were removed. I told him that I knew of no reason of jealousy that subsisted, except about the Spanish Netherlands, and that if he would use his endeavours to remove that, that he might depend on the Queen's good offices, particularly that her Majesty would have occasion to show them when the Emperor came to make his peace with France. If your Lordship thought fit to write something of this nature to him, I believe that it may be of good use, especially now, when my Lord Strafford is to be in England.

The States have prevailed on Mons. Goslinga to go Ambassador with Mr. Buys to France, who is an able and bold man, so that they will be well represented at that Court, both for trade and politics. I believe that the Dutch will come into the Spanish peace and swallow the guarantee, for Amsterdam will not let them equip against the Spaniards, because the Spaniards have only desired their ships not to come into their harbours, but have made none of them prize.

I am going up to Utrecht to wait on the Bishop at the signing the Commerce Treaty with Spain, but will be here for the most part till Lord Strafford returns, if your Lordship have any commands for me

they will come safe under Mr. Lewis's cover. I have sent the project of a treaty of navigation and commerce with the Spanish Netherlands to Mr. Secretary Bromley, who has laid it before the Council of Trade, and when it is approven of, I shall do all to obtain it that can be done, but the English privileges at Bruges having been lost by a violent sentence begun in Mr. Cadogan's time and carried on by Mr. Lawes, about the will of one David White, who lived there, I can have little hopes of success in getting these privileges restored till somebody else be at Brussels in the Queen's name, or that I have some power to redress what was so violent and unjustly done against the privileges of that town and against the magistrates of that town.

If your Lordship have no objection to it, when my Lord Strafford returns, and the Bishop goes over, I would gladly make a short trip into England to explain all these things, hoping that the provisional *réglement* will be complied with ere the Bishop goes, who wants to be at home as soon as the Queen's affairs will permit.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, October 26—If I had not enemies who have neither justice nor compassion, I should not importune your Lordship in this manner. It was my great disaster that I had not the honour to see you when I attended this evening. Mr. Borrett giving me notice that the Attorney-General, timorous and cautious to a fault, has ordered a rule for me to plead, and that if the pardon be not obtained before I am obliged to plead, I shall still be brought upon the stage. This makes me apply myself again to your Lordship, begging your protection, and that such despatch may be used as that my enemies may not triumph, and your Lordship's good design for my deliverance be frustrated by the delay. Mr. Borrett will attend to give you an account of the danger if you please, when at the Treasury, to call for him to that purpose.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, October 28—I had your Lordship's command to attend this evening, and considering of what importance it is to me to lay my case before you, nothing could have hindered me but an indisposition so violent as has obliged me to be carried home and lay all business aside. Yet I cannot go without humbly repeating my importunity to you in the affair of my deliverance, Mr. Borrett again assuring me that if it be delayed a very little longer it will be my ruin. I have no hope but in your Lordship's goodness, and humbly entreat your Lordship I may not be forgotten till it may be too late to help me.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, October 31—It is time that I should mention something to your Lordship besides my own affairs and let my fate rest upon your pleasure, as my prosperity does on your goodness and bounty.

I gave you some hints for a method to reduce these clamours against the Bill of Commerce, supposing those clamours should grow so loud as to make it reasonable not to hazard the debate in Parliament.

But as things seem to look with a better face, and the case appears with its true shape on, it occurs to me, and this I thought worth your notice, that it is very needful to apply by all possible means to open the eyes of all the Government's friends to this particular, which indeed too many have been persuaded not to see, viz., that the dispute about trade is but a circumstance, an excrescence grown out of the general party broil, taken hold of as they would have done of anything else that had offered, as men drowning take hold of one another and drown the faster; but that the quarrel is individually the same as before, and they who will be amused with the clamour of a party without enquiring into the true design, really make that design effectual, and assist that party to destroy themselves and the Government together, and those (I say) who will be amused with this artifice ought to remember it is not trade that they are voting for, but the Queen and Ministry against rage and disorder.

This is what, if your Lordship approves my thoughts, I shall apply myself to, and wish that all men who have any zeal for her Majesty's service would do the same, and I the rather mention it because I see there is room for the arguments on this head, and people do begin to see it already, though not sufficiently.

I have also compiled a letter to the Dissenters, of which I had a hint from you, and though I may not reach the scheme of your thoughts, yet I am hopeful it may have some effect upon them, only I would hint a thing to you without the least view to my own interest, viz., they have taken of late such measures to stifle everything that is not for their turn by clamouring at it in their "Flying Post," and by their new corresponding letters that nothing can be spread into the country but by force of management, and, indeed, no printer will now print at his own charge, which is the reason the world is overrun with their pamphlets which they disperse privately two or three editions at a time, and no man stirs a hand to oppose them, because they must do it at their own hazard and expense. I have done what lay in my power, but your Lordship knows by other ways the extent of my strength is too small; however I lay this before you without any respect to myself, humbly recommending it to you because though the thing itself is small, the mischief they do is not inconsiderable.

Dr. George Hickes to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, October 31—On behalf of Mr. Bedford, under censure of the Government for publishing a book in answer to Dr. Higden, the doctor, by his uncommon confidence and assurance, having provoked his adversary to a reply. Implores his Lordship by his own innate generosity and love of learning, to protect the writer from a criminal prosecution.

William Thorold to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, October—By direction lays before his Lordship a statement of the provision already made, and what may be esteemed necessary in future, for the support of the preachers in the English church at Rotterdam. The provision is about 140*l.* per annum, out of which about 50*l.* is spent on the minister's diet and lodging. This does not leave enough for an assistant, the duties of the office being so burthen-

some as to require one; and the provision hitherto raised with great difficulty is likely to diminish on account of the removal of several of the most considerable merchants into England.

It is humbly hoped that by his Lordship's favour a settlement of 200*l.* will be made upon the preacher there.

FREDERIC, DUKE OF SAXONY, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, November 3. Friedenstein—Desiring his Lordship's good offices in obtaining a settlement of the arrears due to the two regiments which had been placed by him according to convention, at the service of the Queen. M. Hallungius, the Duke's resident at the Hague, had been instructed to come to London to press the matter. (*French. Noted by Lord Oxford as having been received from M. Hallungius on April* 21, 1714.)

LORD BARNARD to — NETTERVILLE, Carnaby Street, Golden Square.

[1713] November 10. Fairlawn—I shall be glad to hear from my old friend that my Lord Treasurer is well enough to go abroad, and then I should not doubt but to see accomplished this glorious work of making the peace which I am sure is the only remedy to prevent our ruin. I wish our Parliament is thoroughly sensible of it, for no pains is spared in the country, to frighten them from seeing their own safety. I design to be in town against the beginning of the session, which I conclude will not be till Tuesday 14 days. And by that time I hope it will not be inconvenient to wait on Lord Treasurer. My letters last post mentioned that Lord Harley was married to our niece Lady Harriet, though by letters from Newcastle House, I find she was sick in bed. I wish her well recovered, and that affair succeeded, that she and her mother may find a powerful protector where it may be wanting. I am now hastening to my pleasant house at Greenwich, where I shall be glad to see you. As to my own affair, I desire only to be heard, to make it as plain as the sun. It does vex me however that the Whigs should laugh to see me so ill used by those that should have used me better, but if they think I can't feel they are mistaken.

The DUKE OF ATHOLL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, November 10. Huntingtower—It is my duty to acquaint her Majesty of any disloyal and undutiful practices against her. Sunday last I understand there was a meeting-house set up at Dunkeld, within ten miles of this place, where I have the sole interest and jurisdiction, and where I ordinarily reside. The minister was required by my deputy and servant to produce a certificate of his being qualified in the terms of the Act of Toleration, and to pray for the Queen in expreas terms, as required by the said Act, both which he refused, as your Lordship will see by the enclosed instrument, and a declaration of the undutiful and I may say treasonable manner of the minister praying. The people in that place, and in my interest in Atholl are hitherto well affected to her Majesty, but if there be not a stop put to such disloyal practices, they may be soon perverted from their duty. You will see by the Acts of Toleration that the ministers who pray not for the Queen are to be prosecuted before the Lords of Justiciary, and if her Majesty send orders to her solicitors to prose-

cute Mr. James Inglis, I hope it will put a stop to such disloyal practices; and when I go to live at Dunkeld, which I design to do next week, I think it is my duty to require him or any minister that comes there to pray expressly for the Queen, which if they refuse to declare they will do, I think it my duty as being a Privy Councillor and in other trusts from her Majesty, to stop their public preaching and prayers in that place of my residence. But in all this I entreat to know her Majesty's pleasure, which I shall obey, and have therefore ordered this to be sent from Edinburgh by a flying packet that I may the sooner have a return. I shall only add that there are four Episcopal ministers in Atholl who, indeed, have not taken the oath, but they pray expressly for the Queen, and therefore have been connived at. The best news I can have is that the Queen is in perfect health, which I pray God may long continue.

LORD HALIFAX to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, November 10—I saw a piece of news this morning in the 'Daily Courant' for which I return you my most hearty thanks. If you think fit to pursue such measures to effect and will make us safe and quiet at home, may you be long safe and quiet in the Ministry. I will answer for one who will give you no disturbance on any other account.

I wish always to concur with you in public affairs, but if my principles are more out of fashion than I wish they were, yet my personal obligations to you are such that out of principle I must ever be a humble friend and servant to you.

LADY PYE to her cousin ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Bath.

1713, begun the 7 and finished the 11 of November. [Derby]—I fancy the opera music is in the wane; my niece Jenny Packer, who was at the Oxford Act, says they gave it for Dr. Croft's music after Purcell, and that the others were little followed.

We are very happy in niece Jenny's good company, she is ingenious and brisk. She hath had a long and severe cold, but it hath not prevented her and cousins taking their diversions; here is a tolerable company of strollers, who act three times a week.

The anthem designed to be sung was extraordinary, but I have this year at Buxton, &c., seen so many Papists and Jac[obites] at a great height that I don't much wonder, though I hope there is no ground for them. It hath caused some reflection that our ministers of this parish, and another in this place left out the service for the 5 November, where mention was made of the Revolution.

I scribble what comes uppermost, am just light in head with coughing, this letter I finish in my bed, have had many bouts at it, was begun for last Saturday.

DR. GEORGE HICKES to [LORD HARLEY?].

[1713?] November 13—I have spoken to my neighbour, who says he will not let his house to any person, but he will offer it with all his heart to Abbot Gautier, for the ambassador's service. If the abbot be sent to me, I have no more to do than to send him to my Lord, who will make him an offer of his home in a most obliging manner, to ex-

press his gratitude to his great master for all the favours his father received from him. He begs you to be assured that nothing that has passed in the matter shall be mentioned by him.

LORD CHANCELLOR HARCOURT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, November 13—Another Irish Bishop being dead since I saw you, I cannot help repeating my most earnest solicitations in behalf of Dr. Delawne. Pray do not suffer so valuable a man to be lost by a malicious insinuation, which no one will own or can pretend to justify. If you knew Delawne as well as I do, I am sure the bishopric of Raphoe, if he be translated, or Kilmore, would fall to his share.

SIR CHRISTOPHER HATTON to [LORD HARLEY].

1713, November 14—Recommends his son, in orders and fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, as chaplain to his Lordship.

The REV. PH. STUBBS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, November 16. Royal Hospital, Greenwich—I am in hopes the happy season will not be long in coming which your Honour was pleased to presage to me on my last return from Holland. Let me beg but a mark of her Majesty's grace, in consideration of six years faithful service in this house without any salary but the small ordinary of Woolwich adjoining. Be it here in my own native country, or in Ireland with my good friend, fellow collegiate, and predecessor in Woolwich, the new Primate thereof, or even in the Plantations, you will never repent of your interest so employed.

Postscript.—Mr. Whitelock's MSS. are now in my neighbourhood at Sion. I would gladly be commissioned to secure them at the most easy rate; 'tis the last time of asking. There's the Diary from 1605 to 1660, the Swedish Embassy in 1653, 54, all Sir Bulstrode's collections about Parliaments, Councils, &c., with two volumes in folio on all the texts of Scripture relating to the Regale in the utmost sense of the words, drawn from the original Hebrew especially.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, November 18—My sense of your Lordship's goodness to me in this unhappy affair is too great for me to express, it must be testified in duty rather than words. But it still leaves me in a difficulty too great for me without your further help. As to the expense of the pardon which is too great for me, you were pleased to say that Mr. Borrett should do that part, and I humbly beg he may have your orders on that account, because he seems to say he is not empowered.

I fear also Mr. Attorney may so contract and limit the pardon as to leave room for a malicious party to fall on me again. I was in hopes like a receipt in full it should have balanced all accounts, and I doubt not if your Lordship sees fit it may be so still.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, November 18. Windsor Castle—My Lord Privy Seal gives her Majesty near two hours of his conversation every night. His lady

does the same honour to the Duchess of Somerset. Though your Lordship would be as merry with Dartmouth *Ministre* as with Harlequin *Empereur*, yet I do not know how serious other folks may be on the subject.

I have writ to Prior to let the Court of France feel that the General Peace must not hang at this rate in the last act; that Spain must make an end with us and with Portugal; that the Queen must be at a certainty what turn the affairs of Europe will take before she meets her Parliament; and that she will protect, defend, assist or even attack, as the engagements she is under, as her own honour and the public good require.

Surely it is right to speak in this style and to act in this manner. It would be pity to let drop the character, which the Queen, we may say, has held up with glory since we have had the honour to serve her. You, my Lord, can support it.

Will Bingley go to Spain, or will he have a commoner, who may be re-elected, joined with him, and a couple of under workmen, and treat about commerce with the French?

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to the LORD TREASURER.

1713, November 19. Windsor Castle—I had just finished a letter to your Lordship upon this very melancholy occasion* when your messenger arrived.

It would be really impertinent for me to suggest any considerations to you who are as well armed against these severe trials as strength of reason and fortitude of mind can arm a man. It is enough for me to assure you that no person, even in your own family and among those who are nearest to you, can take a more sincere part in all the good and bad fortune which happens to you than I do. I am ever, my Lord, with the truest esteem, yours, &c.

The EARL OF DARTMOUTH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1713, November 20, *endorsed*]—I am truly troubled for your loss, but you know you have resolution enough to support any misfortune. I heartily wish you all the comforts this world can afford.

LADY MASHAM to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, November 21—I am truly sensible of your very great loss, having so lately been under the same melancholy circumstances, though in a much less degree. I know there is nothing to be said can give you any consolation, therefore I shall only trouble your Lordship with assuring you I will offer up my earnest prayers to Almighty God to support and comfort you under this heavy affliction: my Lord, brother and sister join with me. The Queen is in a great deal of concern for you and intends to write to your Lordship herself.

MICHAEL CREAGH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713 [October 22-]November 1. Utrecht—My case has perhaps been the most singular of any of my countrymen, it having been my

* The death of Lord Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth, married to Lord Carmarthen on December 15, 1712.

misfortune to have been Lord Mayor of Dublin when there was no thought of a change in the Government—I mean in the year 1688—for it was impossible for me to quit that station upon King William's, then Prince of Orange, landing in England, as I have done as soon as it was possible for me to do it, and retired into Holland through France, and have since remained here, having lost a brave estate in Ireland by Act of Parliament.

I have made a shift ever since to live as an honest man ought, independent of any government, by means of an inheritance fallen to me in Holland; but the heavy taxes, of which upwards of 3,000*l.* have fallen to my share, and the charge of maintaining a family, and the threat of plague and famine compel me to beg the Queen's and his Lordship's commiseration and protection.

The Earl of Anglesey to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, November 21. [Dublin]—I am much obliged to the Dean of St. Patrick's (Swift) for his good offices, and to you for entertaining so kindly my expressions of the great honour I have for you.

I hope we shall be able to give a good account of the Parliament here, we having exerted a better spirit and met with greater success in our elections than the most sanguine did expect; and I may affirm with truth that this island by your countenance and encouragement will in a short time be brought to as good a temper towards her Majesty's present administration as that of Great Britain.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, November 26—No man that has a real concern in your prosperity but must condole with you in this second stab so near your heart. But you that have always made the public care so much superior to your private interest, will with the more ease heal all the wounds of this kind with that sovereign remedy, that truly noble and sublime remedy, I mean resignation. I know I need but name it to you, who have long since made it your guide, and by which you have been led through the various changes of life to that eminent greatness, for which wicked men envy you.

Yet I thought it my duty, and the duty of respect, to make such a hint, in the stead of a compliment of condolence, which I hope your Lordship will accept and pardon the officious forwardness of.

[John Drummond to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, [November 28-]December 8, N.S. Hague—I would have given Mr. Secretary Bromley the trouble of this letter were I not to mention some persons in it who are better known to your Lordship, and that you will communicate to Mr. Secretary such things as you think necessary for the Queen's service.

In my last to Mr. Secretary, I had the honour to write to him that my Lord Bishop of London had charged me with a commission of speaking to the Pensionary about admitting the Queen into the joint administration of the towns of the barrier as a part of the Spanish Netherlands, and the States are to instruct their plenipotentiaries to confer with my Lord on this subject. The Pensionary took this occasion to tell me that no such trifle as this should ever give the least ground of difference between the Queen and this State,

could but other jealousies be removed and the former friendship so necessary for the preservation of both nations re-established. He declares he has taken all the pains imaginable to express his thoughts on this subject to the Earl of Strafford, and has hoped for success through the same channel, but he rather finds the jealousies and *méfiance* increase at a time when we ought to be most united, and when the Emperor, out of malice against the States for coming into the peace with the Queen, is like to unite with France to the ruin of the security both of England and of this State; and that the jealous people of this republic conclude from the little good understanding and confidence that is between the Queen and the States, that the Queen or her Ministry are in the secret with France to re-establish the Duke of Bavaria in the Spanish Netherlands, and that the Pretender is to be brought that way into England. Even their accounts from France tell them that there is a marriage agreed upon betwixt the Pretender and a Princess of Bavaria. I told him that all the pains which the Queen and her Ministers could take to remove those jealousies had no influence on them, because they believed the disaffected party, and not the Queen's friends in everything that concerned England, and what methods had the States taken to reconcile matters with the Queen and to renew that friendship with her Majesty which is so necessary for their preservation? Whether they had sent over any one to the Queen in whom they trusted themselves, or was proper to be trusted by her Majesty? He declared that though he had an entire confidence himself in Lord S[trafford], yet that others were so prepossessed, and that they had shown such a dislike to his high behaviour that he could not prevail with them to be so frank and friendly with him as he could wish. He therefore desired to know of me if I was still of my former opinion about Lord Albemarle, that if he went over as if it were about his own private business, and had a secret commission, whether he would be acceptable to the Queen, and would be trusted by your Lordship, if he carried with him undeniable proofs that he was trusted by this State. I told him that it was my opinion that nobody could be more acceptable, especially if the Queen and the Ministry were persuaded that his Lordship was entirely trusted by this State. He said that my saying the Ministry was a little too general, and that it would only be a very few of the secret commission here who perhaps would be intrusted with his Lordship's private message, and the fewer in England that knew of it the better. He mentioned only the Queen and your Lordship, and perhaps the Duke of Shrewsbury, who is my Lord Albemarle's old acquaintance, but even this third person has a blame upon his reputation here on account of some plot in the late King's time. He charged me not to speak of this to my Lord Albemarle, and desired that neither Lord S[trafford] nor Van Huls might know anything of it in England.

In short, my Lord, he said so much to me upon the subject of reconciliation, and with so much earnestness and concern, that I was resolved last night to have gone over to you, and to have returned without seeing anybody else, but the Brabant Commissaries are come down to Utrecht, and I know not whether it would have been taken well of me to have left the business of my Commission, on any imagination that I could have of doing service, though at present all that we are doing at Utrecht will be to agree with the French and Brabanters about re-establishing their commerce as it was before the war.

I do now take the freedom to declare to your Lordship upon my conscience, and to the best of my understanding, that now the time is come in which your Lordship, if you think it for the Queen's service, may renew and re-establish a true and lasting friendship with this Republic, and a confidence with their chief ministers. Perhaps your Lordship may think it strange that this should have been broached to me in so earnest a manner, but I could give some good reasons for that also. They would gladly see the Bishop here, but he is resolved not to come without the Queen's express orders, not to give my Lord Strafford any ground of jealousy. The Bishop ordered me to mention the affairs of Sweden to the Pensionary about which he promised to procure the States' instructions to their Ministers at Utrecht to discourse with my Lord, but I find that they are afraid of the Muscovites, and that the Czar's new memorial to the King of Prussia about the sequestration of Pomerania, and the affairs of Holstein are like to frighten the Prussian Court from meddling so much there as was expected.

The Dutch Ministers in general do believe that the Queen has somebody at Rastadt, but the Pensionary seems now persuaded of the contrary, and I have seen a letter from Prince Eugene of the 8th instant, in which he says that they had dispatched couriers to their Courts, but that he could not yet count upon anything being done, and the French Ambassador here, who first gave great hopes of success at Rastadt, takes pains to make people believe that the interview there will end fruitless. Meantime both Prince Eugene and Marshal Villars remain there waiting the return of their couriers, and the Pensionary's intelligence of the 11th says, that the project was now to make the Elector Palatine King of Sardinia, and to restore the upper Palatinate to the Elector of Bavaria, and that the Electress Palatine had prevailed with her Elector to consent to this, her design after his death being to retire to Rome, and having the title of Queen with the succession of her father, the Great Duke, would make herself very considerable in Italy. The Pensionary says the Imperial Court is so much incensed at them as well as at the Queen, that in all this treaty, if it does succeed, there will not the least regard be had to either of their interests.

The Admiralty of this State are so much in debt still that the only man-of-war they had at sea is now laid up in the dock, and that even the guardship against Hamburg on account of the plague is ordered home; this your Lordship may depend on.

The colonies of Surinam and Curaçao, but especially that of Surinam, have made a contract here before the States with the Dutch African or West India Company for twenty thousand negroes to be delivered as the plantation may demand them, at the rate of two hundred and twenty-five guilders each, *pièce de India*, free and in health ashore in Surinam. The Zealand interlopers offered at the same time to the society of Surinam to deliver them the like number for less than half the price, viz., for one hundred and ten guilders, providing they were allowed a free trade independent of the West India Company.

The French Ambassador, Mons. Chateauneuf, makes his Court extremely here to everybody, and there is a party for making court to him and his master. I was told in confidence that the Lorraine Envoy at London wrote over here to Mons. le Begue, the Envoy here, that notwithstanding all the letters that were wrote over to exclude the Pretender of his Master's and other dominions, that very little had

been said to him at London on that subject, and a Lieut.-General lately come over to Antwerp has been here for eight days past, and is gone to Amsterdam spitting all the venom and malice that he can contrive. The Queen's officers at Dunkirk can give the best account of his behaviour at the intendant Le Blanc's table there, and his endeavour here has been chiefly to make people believe that nothing is demolished of Dunkirk, but what wanted to be repaired and made better, and that all the materials were lying ready in order for that purpose. He says also that the South Sea Company in England was resolved to petition the Parliament against being obliged to trade, that they were selling off their cargoes and would satisfy themselves with the Government's interest of six per cent., but would not meddle with the trade agreed upon for them; that your Lordship was doing all you could to encourage them to trade, but that it would be to no purpose; and so much of that nature that certainly orders will go from this side to sell the South Sea stock. He commends highly the Duke of Argyll, and carried compliments from him to the Duke of Marlborough, assuring him that he would give your Lordship work enough next Parliament, with a great deal of threatenings of that nature, and people's malice does go so far that the squadron of ships which are said to be preparing for the Baltic are, by them, said to be preparing to bring over the Pretender. This is insipid stuff, and not fit to trouble your Lordship with, but it is fit that some men should be known, and upon second thoughts I must beg of your Lordship that no notice be taken to Mr. Secretary or any other of this letter, but if you may be pleased to let me know by any one that it is come safe it will be an ease to me.

JOHN DRUMMOND to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1713 [November 30-]December 10, N.S. Utrecht—Your Lordship will have heard from Mr. Secretary Bromley that I have been at Liège, and I have given him as particular an account of what was doing there as could be obtained, and that city is much beholden to the King of Prussia for so considerable a job of work as he has employed them in. The Queen may be easy that there are no arms making there, neither for one Pretender nor another, and that if any such commission may come there, that I will receive immediate advice for whom any number of arms are to be made.

I came down the Meuse from Liège and found, as the merchants there had told me, that the King of Prussia had erected some new tolls and duties on merchandise passing up and down that river, in the new possessions given him in the upper quarter of Gelder by the late treaty of peace, which is a burden upon the British as well as on the Dutch trade, and ought to be prevented.

I have made a visit to my friends at Amsterdam since my return, and I find that the Lords of the Admiralty have laid up all the men of war, except one of about fifty guns, which was given to some merchants who trade to Riga to keep the Swedish privateers from insulting their ships, because they trade with the Muscovites, who are now in possession of that place. The Admiralty is still left very much in arrear; the sea captains, who have the victualling of their own ships, have had no money these last three years, and except at Amsterdam, the poor sailors have been paid in paper, commonly called "moneth briefs," under the seal of the Admiralty, which they

have sold at thirty to forty per cent. discount, so that even Levant convoys are no more given.

There was a report that if the Spaniards would not make peace, the States would give letters of mark to privateers and merchant galleys to go into the West Indies and to do the Spaniards all the damage they could, but I do not find that any have gone out on such account, but a good many ships are gone to Curaçao and to the coast of Caraques, with cargoes assorted, as is usual for the Spanish West Indies, but all on private accounts, as that trade has been usually drove.

I am very happy in Mr. Gillingen's conversation, who stays in the same house with me here, and I hope he will have the same success in establishing as he has had in negotiating so beneficial a branch of trade for her Majesty's subjects as the Assiento and what belongs to it. My Lord Bishop is very glad that he came over, and wisheth that he had been here sooner, for both his Lordship and I were of opinion that several customs were crept into the Spanish ports in prejudice of the laws; but he explains that custom is become more favourable there than the laws of the country, so that the articles which were couched so as to agree with the laws made in the time of Charles the Second, King of Spain, must now be altered into the methods that were practised in that King's reign. My Lord and Mr. Gillingen are at present in conference with the Duke de Ossuna, to endeavour, if possible, that the treaty of commerce may be signed without any farther rescription to Madrid, which I heartily wish they may succeed in, for the two Spanish Ministers do live at such variance here, that even in very indifferent matters they will not go beyond the letter of their instructions, fearing to be accused the one by the other for the least condescension.

I have happily brought my little negotiation here so far to bear, that the double duties in Flanders are at last removed, and the comptoirs of customs in the old Spanish Netherlands, and new barrier united into one, so that in all these dominions for the future only one duty of import, and another duty of exportation can be exacted, and the project which I sent over for modelling those duties, and for recovering the privileges at Bruges to the British merchants, with the reparations necessary at Ostend, does still lie before the Lords Commissioners of trade, and I hope they will find time to send me their opinion of it before the Parliament sits down or against my Lord Strafford does return, that I may see to get provincial deputies from the Spanish Netherlands to approve of it as far as they can; so that the Emperor may be brought to admit of such a *réglement* at his taking possession of the Spanish Netherlands, for the future security of the British trade to Flanders, which I can assure your Lordship is of no small consequence, and will become very much more considerable by a little good management at Brussels, and at home.

There is now very great hopes of the Emperor's coming into the peace, for Prince Eugene's interviews with Marshal de Villars at Rastadt will in all appearance regulate the preliminaries of that peace which may be further treated at Frankfort or Basle. My Lord Strafford will perhaps come over with power from the Queen over the Spanish Netherlands. There is nobody who wisheth better to his Lordship than I do, neither has any one a juster value for the services that he has done, but I earnestly wish that it may be seriously recommended to him to support and prefer the ancient nobility of

that country. What can be more absurd and more detestable to them than to see two men, who nobody knows from whence they came, named to the two greatest governments of that country, which were always possessed before by grandees of Spain or by the first nobility of the country, viz., the government of Ghent by Mons. Dodigny, one whose mother was hanged at Mons for a spy, who lies under prosecutions for plundering the country, and only because he married a niece or rather a miss of Mons. Reynswoud's, to whom perhaps our Earl has some obligations, he must be employed in a manner by force upon this country into so honourable and considerable a government? The other is Mr. Davenish, a gentleman who has served many masters, and because his first wife was once a servant about the Duke of Gloucester, I shall forbear giving any character of, but his having had that wife is the greatest, if not the only merit. If Count Maldeghem and such noblemen of the country, who are truly in the Queen's interest, and in the true interest of their country, were made Governors of Ghent, Bruges, and of Ostend, our merchants and trade would neither want privileges nor support, neither would they be governed by corruption nor perquisites.

Your Lordship may judge how the Queen's interest is minded at Brussels when Mr. St. John, who came from thence last week, has been well informed that a Queen's Secretary there, who, some years ago, was usher to a writing master, is now worthy fifty thousand pistoles. I must confess that my circumstances might have encouraged me to have accepted the residency there, when my Lord Bolingbroke was so kind to propose it to me, but they must still become more desperate ere I take such methods to better them further than the Queen's allowance might amount to.

Some time ago my Lord Strafford was wrote to, I believe by the Lords Commissioners of Trade, to have a collection made of all the placeats and ordinances of this Republic for the original settlement, and further encouragement of their herring and whale fishing. I believe that few or none have a better collection of that nature than I have, for when Mons. Walkier, our chief Lord of the Admiralty, died, I bought from his widow the four volumes of placeats which have been made from the beginning of the Republic to the year 1700, and the collection of all their sea affairs and of their customs, with several remarks wrote by his own hand; and having no mind to part with them, yet if your Lordship think fit I am very willing, with the assistance of one who is in my service here, who writes a fair hand, to translate out of the Dutch all such placeats as do concern the fishing, and to send them over to your Lordship, if you be pleased to signify your pleasure to me by Mr. Thomas Harley, or anybody else, for it is a work which will require some time and application.

I have altered the date of this letter from the 7th to the 10th, seeing the daily conferences with the Spanish Ministers gave me hopes that Mr. Gillingen, by whom I take the freedom to trouble your Lordship with this letter, should have the pleasure of carrying over the treaty with him, which they resolved to sign last night with a reserve. The Duke de Ossuna declared this evening that he was sorry this had been desired, but he could not prevail with the Marquis de Monteleon to cancel the declaration, though he seems persuaded that what is done will be ratified, and has made faithful promises that he will venture all to make it effectual. The Duke de Ossuna shows himself in every respect a staunch Spaniard, and is of opinion that they can

only deliver themselves from French influence by obliging the Queen, and living in an entire confidence with her Majesty; and on the contrary, during this whole treaty Monteleon has shown himself to be entirely in the French interest, and whatever was said or done in the conferences he immediately communicated to the Chevalier de Rossi, who is left here by Mons. de Torcy to write to the French Court what passeth, as is also Mons. Voultier, one of the French King's Commissaries, who told me always next morning what had been treated the night before. The Duke de Ossuna goes to the Hague the latter end of the week to finish the Dutch peace.

Mr. Gillingen will acquaint your Lordship with what great pains and skill my Lord Bishop of London has brought matters so far, and when Mr. Gillingen arrived he had very little hopes of getting anything done without a rescription from Spain. I cannot omit on this occasion to acquaint your Lordship how often and with how much concern my Lord Bishop of London has told me, that he never gave your Lordship the trouble of recommending any one to you except his nephew, Captain Wood, and one Mr. Cumming, and that you had provided for neither of them. He says that he never desired anything for himself, neither could he provide for those gentlemen, or he would not have been troublesome to your Lordship, and that he hoped he had deserved so much as to have his nephew provided for. I hope your Lordship will be pleased to pardon the freedom I take in mentioning this, but I find the old gentleman takes it so much to heart, that I think it my duty to mention it.

The Duke de Ossuna promises that the Dutch shall confirm, not only the Assiento, but also the separate ship to the English company, ere they have their peace, the latter of which they still refuse to approve of. The French King's Commissaries have accounts from France that the Emperor's peace advances, and that the present project for concluding it, is to re-establish the Duke of Bavaria in the Government of the Spanish Netherlands, and to make his son Elector of Bavaria, and to marry him to the late Emperor Joseph's daughter, by whom the Spanish Netherlands shall be given in succession to the house of Bavaria, but I cannot think that their information is to be depended upon, and I am sure that this project will not please the Dutch.

I was asked yesterday that seeing I was well acquainted with Prince Eugene, whether I would go to Rastadt to see what was doing there. I answered that neither the rudeness of the season, nor anything else should hinder me to go where the Queen's service might require. I know not whether this will be wrote over, but though Prince Eugene employs me in little commissions yet I am afraid that he would not be very communicative on this occasion, but the Elector Palatine's Minister, Baron Houtheym, who was here last year, and is now there with the Prince, would be of good use if he could be come at by Steyngties or any other.

The Duke of Leeds to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, December 1—Condoling with him on their mutual loss upon the death of Lady Carmarthen.

John Chamberlayne to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, December 1. Petty France, Westminster—At Christmas there will be about ten thousand pounds to be distributed to the

poor clergy, according to the rules made for that purpose almost a year ago. It cannot be concealed from them that there has been a great sum of money in hand a long time for their benefit, and they are not unacquainted with the terms and conditions of augmenting their livings, nor the patrons and benefactors either, divers of whom have declared their readiness to join with the Governors in augmenting benefices not exceding 35*l.* per annum.

MICHAEL CREAGH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713 [November 23-]December 1. Utrecht—I am bound to testify my obligations for the kind reception you have given my spouse and little ones. I could hardly flatter myself that the multiplicity of affairs could admit you to take notice of my little family, seeing I may justly apply the saying of Horace to you—*Quis tot sustineat quis tanta negotia solus.*

As nothing but an Act of Parliament could avail me to return to England, I hope some employment may be given me abroad, through the favours of Lord Bolingbroke.

The EARL OF ORRERY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, December 2—I have received the honour of your Lordship's letter, which is upon a subject fitter for conversation than writing, and if I had but once had a proper opportunity of speaking to you since I came last to England I am persuaded I might with much more ease have set some matters right than, I doubt, I can now pretend to do.

I think I can say with great assurance for my own part that ever since I had anything to do in the world, I have acted with the utmost respect and the sincerest friendship towards you, and therefore I must own I have been extremely mortified of late to find myself so unkindly neglected as you, upon reflection, I'm confident, must agree I have been, and perfectly puzzled to imagine from whence so much coldness to one so cordial could proceed. But I will trouble you now no more upon this head. I beg leave only to assure you that however I may lose your friendship I will never deserve to forfeit your good opinion nor ever do anything either in my public or private capacity unbecoming a man of honour and uprightness.

The DUKE OF SHREWSBURY to the LORD TREASURER.

1713, December 2. Dublin Castle—Referring to an enclosed petition from Capt. Michael Owen, of General Pearce's regiment of dragoons, who had lost his right hand in Spain, and had been recommended to the Treasury for a pension of 100*l.* per annum by the Duke of Ormond, the warrant for which had been a long time unsigned in the Treasury.

WILLIAM BROMLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, December 2—I forgot to acquaint you last night that Lieut.-Gen. Webb was dying. One of his servants overtook me on the road as I came from Windsor, riding post to town to carry Dr. Garth and Busiere to him; he told me he believed his master would be dead before

they could get to him, that it was thought the bullet which lay in his body was fallen upon the neck of his bladder, not to be removed by any help in the country.

LADY MASHAM to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, December 3—The Queen is very well, and the stiffness she had in one of her knees (since her illness in her stomach) is to-night much better. I am the by-waiter, so can give you a better account of her lameness than the doctor; the weather is mighty warm here, more than usual for the time of the year. I pray God keep you in health, and hope to see you here Saturday next.

Postscript.—My Lord is gone for three or four days to my Lord Stowell's.

The EARL OF ORRERY to [the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, December 3—The good opinion of me which your Lordship is pleased to express in the letter I have just now received obliges me to return you my thanks, and to assure you that I should be very sorry if I should ever do anything that should with reason give you occasion to change those sentiments of me. If I understand your meaning right, I can confidently say I am a stranger to those transactions you mention. I do believe indeed you have a great many enemies, and I have for some time been so apprehensive of such violent storms in this unfortunate state that I have wished myself out of the way, and for this reason, not long ago I made a proposal to my Lord Bolingbroke to be laid before the Queen, to go abroad again for two or three years, in a station where I thought I might be of some use to the public and upon terms I thought more advantageous to the Queen than to myself. I protest the prospect I had in this was purely for the service of my friends and country, for I naturally love home, but was desirous, almost at any rate, of being out of those squabbles where I well know a man's behaviour though never so pure and disinterested has always the most malicious and ill-natured construction put upon it. Since I made this proposal I have thought very little of it, and the great disappointment I have had in not having so much of your countenance as I flattered myself I had by my zeal at least, if not by my services, deserved, as well as my natural bent of temper to be as quiet as I can, have made me very indifferent as to any posts of great honour or profit. I hope always to keep my integrity and to be able to get through the remaining part of my life as I have done the former, without having any ill action to reproach myself withal.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, December 3. Windsor Castle—I am sorry there is little show of government when the difficulties we have to struggle with require that all the powers of it should be exerted. I can truly say I am ready to contribute all the little in my sphere whenever your commands direct me. The only reason why I did not attend you this week was the belief that you intended to be here to-day, and therefore, pray my Lord, do not once entertain a thought that I give myself airs, or have the least lukewarmness. I see a man here every

night that does the former with a witness. The pigmy stretches and struts, and fancies himself a giant.* I hope you will be satisfied when I see you that I have not been idle.

SIR CONSTANTINE PHIPPS, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, to WILLIAM BROMLEY, Secretary of State.

1713, December 5. Dublin—The opinion of the judges concerning my Lord Mayor's holding over beyond his year is sent by this packet to my Lord Bolingbroke, which I hope will give entire satisfaction, and that her Majesty will thereupon signify to my Lord Lieutenant that it is her pleasure that the aldermen elect one of the three already named by my Lord Mayor, or else that the present Lord Mayor hold over for the remainder of the year. If this were done, I believe it would conduce as much to a quiet session as anything can do.

I must acquaint you that the Attorney-General's opinion upon our representation was referred to a committee of the Council, who were to take the opinion of the judges upon it, and the judges were to state these facts more fully in which Mr. Attorney takes notice the representation was defective. The judges after perusal of the city charters and books, delivered their opinion to the committee, consisting of twenty-one, of which five being Whigs and unwilling to concur with the judges, withdrew, and the other sixteen agreed with the judges and signed their report. Last night in council their report was read, and it being proposed that my Lord Lieutenant and Council should agree with the committee, the Whigs, who were nine in number, opposed it, and a great debate arose thereupon.

The objections against agreeing with the committee were that they thought the judges were mistaken in point of law, and that there are several facts mentioned by the judges in their opinion which the Lords of the Council did not know to be true, and they could not say they agreed with them till they were satisfied of the truth of those facts, they observed likewise that the judges say there were many more instances of Lord Mayors holding beyond their year besides those mentioned in their opinion, and they could not concur with the committees in that till they saw what those instances are. Nay, my Lord Archbishop of Dublin declared though the judges say there are many more instances, yet he believed there are none, which is the usual civility he pays to men that are not of his opinion. The design of making these objections was to delay sending the judges' opinion into England, and we believing the agreeing with the committee was more a matter of form than substance in this case, and his Grace unhappily concurring with the Whigs, and declaring that he could not be of the same opinion with the judges, he having not heard anything of the cause, we proposed, to avoid all objections, that the opinion of the judges should be transmitted without any opinion of the Council upon it, which, after a long struggle, was obtained. My Lord Lieutenant's joining with the Whigs in this debate and the difficulty there was to prevail upon his Grace to transmit the judges' opinion is construed by our friends (who are twenty or twenty-one to nine) to be a public declaration of his Grace in favour of the Whigs, and they apprehending by what passed in the debate that this matter had been concerted before by his Grace and some of the Whigs, it made the greater impression, and it is the common language of our

* Lord Oxford notes these remarks as referring to Lord Dartmouth.

friends out of the Council that the mask is now taken off. I must not omit to tell you that the ill-usage we received from the Archbishop of Dublin and Mr. Molesworth was such as I believe has not been known, and we were very much concerned that his Grace did not show any resentment nor give them the least check for it. One part of the Archbishop's civility was to hint to us that if we did not behave ourselves as we ought, the Queen would turn us out of the Council, and I must own I think we are not fit to sit in the same Council with him and Molesworth.

To let you see the Archbishop of Dublin was mistaken, and that the judges had good reason to say there were many other instances of Lord Mayors holding beyond Michaelmas day, I have sent you a list of several instances of that kind, not mentioned in their opinion, which I desire you would communicate to my Lord Bolingbroke, if his Lordship has it not from any other, which I believe he cannot yet have.

Lord Lexington to the Lord Treasurer.

1713, December 6. Madrid—I have given my Lord Bolingbroke an account of the present situation of this Court as to a peace, and I think I may say they will entirely comply with her Majesty's measures in everything can be reasonably desired of them, as you will see by the Secretary of State's letters to me. I shall embark upon the *Ormond* man-of-war next Tuesday for England, where if I find I have the happiness of finishing my negociation, as far as 'twas possible for me to carry it, to your Lordship's satisfaction, my wishes will be complete.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, December 7—I have forborne troubling you as much as possible, being very sensible I ought to do so.

I presented you a small tract about the Dissenters, the hint is your Lordship's own, but ought to have a better workman, for so good a foundation deserved a complete building; yet I have the satisfaction of seeing some good effects from it already, and some men begin to be convinced. I never solicited you for anything in my life, however great my pressures have been, with so much earnestness as I would beg you to enable me to make this little book extensive, that in spite of the arts used here to check and stifle it I might make it be seen among the country Dissenters. I am verily persuaded it would do more service than any single thing of its kind at least that I ever performed.

I am not seeking private advantage, and will be contented to reap none by it, but I see the contrivance of a set of men among us, if possible, to suppress it, and especially to send none into the country. It seems hard that the most virulent inflaming writings, such as are not fit to be read in a civilised nation, are privately sent all over the nation at a public contributed charge, thereby to poison and possess the people. But if a word is written in behalf of the Government it is not only left upon the author's hands at his own loss, but the service honestly intended is rendered abortive and the true end not answered.

Would your Lordship give me leave there are very few Dissenters in England but should see this little tract, and should also be told who have endeavoured to keep it from them and why. Pardon me

that I seem to put so much value upon this small piece. I do hope it is a word in season, and am sure there is need of something to be done to allay the spirits of an honest but misguided people. Were it in my power my zeal for the public good would make me do this and more. But my case is such, as I can neither bear to relate nor forbear to lament.

I cease my complaint however now, because I am moving your Lordship in an affair that I flatter myself is an opportunity of doing good to a body of men who may yet be made useful, both to the Government and themselves, and 'tis on that account I am bold to importune you and no other.

Grant to the Earl of Oxford.

1713, December 14. Windsor Castle—Original warrant signed by Queen Anne, authorising John Drummond, Esquire, to transfer to the Earl of Oxford, for his own use, the several sums amounting to 13,000*l.*, comprised in certain orders of loan, bearing date on or about December 11, 1711, in Drummond's name, and charged upon the register in our Exchequer on the moneys arising by sale of our tin, which orders were not yet in course of payment. Her Majesty had resolved, having regard to his great services and to the impious attempt upon his life, to bestow upon him a sum in ready money; but Lord Oxford had represented that the arrears then due to the Queen's servants and tradesmen chargeable upon the Civil list were very great and pressing.

The Duke of Shrewsbury to [ ].

1713, December 14. Chapelizod—Having never had a moment's health since I came into this kingdom, I am forced as often as I can to sleep in this country house. I have had perpetual colds, shortness of breath and defluxions on my breast, notwithstanding the weather is warm and the sun appears as often as at Montpelier. But the truth is my mind is not easy, and things have been driven to such an extremity of heat and disorder that the methods of getting out of them surpass my comprehension. A session of Parliament is begun, both parties promising they will show their zeal in despatching the public business, their duty to her Majesty, and their good will to me; but their ill will to one another is so reigning a passión, that I cannot but apprehend some cross thing will be thrown in the way before we come to an end.

Letters of a fresher date than yours to me of the 6th give accounts that the peace between the two great monarchs advances a pace; our ill wishers in England give out that it will be settled without communication to her Majesty, but I hope our new friends will not serve us such a scurvy trick. I am obliged to you for the seasonable compliment you made the King for me, when he gives Mr. Stonor something, I intend this as a letter of attorney to you, to make another, and since an *abbaye* is easier obtained than a pension, I am willing he should accept it, but think it for nobody's advantage that much noise should be made of it.

I shall be glad to serve Mr. Pennyfather, your relation, who has a very good character from everybody here. I hear nothing of the

Bishop of London quitting his house near Som[erset] house; if I can do anything to serve you in it, let me know what you wish.

Mrs. Touchet has the small-pox, but so favourably that so much as her face is not in danger.

I have promised the Du[chess] of Shrewsbury to make you a fine compliment, but I am too weary to make one for myself. Excuse the trouble of the two enclosed, make our compliments to everybody.

RICHARD GREEN, Mayor of Gloucester, to [the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, December 16. Gloucester—We of this Corporation have presumed to beg your Lordship's acceptance of two lamprey pies, sent from hence this week to your house. May your Lordship long continue a bright example of unshaken loyalty to her Majesty, and of wisdom and goodness in all your actions to future generations.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1713, Dec. 17 endorsed.] Whitehall—Though my head aches with writing all day, I cannot however leave my office till I have sent you the enclosed. I have given the Queen an account of their contents, and have taken that occasion to insinuate the danger of letting things run any further on in Ireland. I have expressed myself warmly but in general terms, and hope I have not done amiss. I see an opportunity of giving new strength, new spirit to your administration, and of cementing a firmer union between us, and between us and those who must support us. If you go to Windsor alone on Saturday, I'll talk to you on the subject. If I am wrong you will not lose much time in a coach on the road. Believe me for once, what I always am, and have been to you, sincere, however I may have been too warm and your Lordship, allow the expression, too jealous.

I have been with the Board of Trade, and have seen d'Iberville. I hope those matters will go on as they ought to do.

I have letters of the 4th Dec. from Madrid. I think Lexington did a very right thing before he left that place in writing to the deputation at Barcelona, and the Court of Spain, a very right thing in being still willing to give them the terms agreed at Utrecht.

WILLIAM FETHERSTONHAUGH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, December 19. Park Place, St. James' Street—Four nights successively I have dreamed that a tall dark fellow, watching his opportunity as your Lordship stepped out of your chariot, with a broad sword run you through the body. The orifice methought was so large that I plainly saw your Lordship's heart. And your servants being in a confusion at the fatal accident, the villain made his escape, leaving his sword behind.

I am free from superstition and not used to mind dreams, but think it ominous that for so many nights together so tragical a scene should be represented to my view. I could not rest until I had acquainted you with it.

SIR WILLIAM FLEMING to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713, December 20—Hearing yesterday that some news prints gave an account that old Mr. Strong of the Excise was dead, it put me

upon thinking whether or not I should give you the trouble of a letter upon that subject, and whether it would not be too late, such places being often promised before they fall. But not knowing but that your Lordship may take some time to consider how you will dispose of such a place, I will venture acquainting you that I should take it as a great mark of your favour to be again in that commission for eight or ten months.

It is not the desire of that salary makes me think of or wish it, there being a much smaller thing in the country to me more desirable. But most of my nearest relations having for some time used me not so well as formerly, and run into measures very opposite to my advice and wishes, upon a presumption that I will not now marry, and that they are secure of what I have, I am the more inclined to disappoint them by marrying. And this country being furnished with no females worth marrying, I could wish to have such a call to London as would renew my former acquaintance, get me new, and assist me something in doing that to my satisfaction, credit and advantage.

And as I would thankfully resign it to your disposal again in eight or ten months, or sooner if I light on to my mind (not liking to continue with a wife in London), so you would soon have it in your Lordship's power again to oblige another friend. And I should certainly have all the sense of the favour you could wish, and adhere as firmly to your service, and that of the public, it having been always my resolution and practice to stick unalterably to the interest of my benefactors, until they deserted me first.

Viscount Bolingbroke to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, December 24. Windsor—I arrive here this moment and find our good mistress extremely ill. Her case you will have particularly from Dr. Arbuthnot. Her symptoms are the same as in her last ague, but stronger and more severe. God in his mercy to these kingdoms preserve her. Let us see you here without delay.

The Same to [the Same].

1713, December 25. Windsor Castle—We expected your Lordship here this morning with the utmost impatience, for indeed the Queen has been, and still is, extremely ill, though some of her bad symptoms are abated. I am now with most of your friends of the Council, who most heartily wish you here, and I suppose Dr. Arbuthnot sent you word yesterday that the Queen expressed a desire to see you.

Your Lordship is the best judge what measure to take, but surely in all events and in all respects you should be here.

Lady Masham has your letter, but as she is continually attending the Queen, cannot find time to answer it.

Once more, pray lose no time in coming. Her Grace of Somerset will be here to-night.

Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.

1713, December 25—I hope your servants acquainted your Lordship that I attended last night and the evening before, according to

your commands. I mention it that you may not think me wanting in duty in not attending this evening, being confined by a violent cold.

I assure you I have immediately applied good part of your last bounty to the use I proposed it. I am vain of the honour they do the letter to the Dissenters in naming your Lordship to be the author of it. But more yet am I vain with the success I hope that little work has among the wisest and best of the Dissenters. I have caused it to be reprinted in little to be conveyed as proposed over the west, and have ordered it to be printed at Newcastle and Edinburgh.

Perhaps it may, *mutatis mutandis*, be many ways useful in Scotland as well as here.

Either these men must alter their conduct to the Government or the Government must alter its conduct to them. There is a time when clemency becomes criminal and when justice must exert itself or suffer a contempt, dangerous even to Government itself.

[E. Lewis] to the Lord Treasurer.

1713, December 25. Four in the afternoon—'Tis with the utmost concern that I tell you that besides the pain everybody suffers from the Queen's illness, we have the additional uneasiness of your not being here, which is the second topic of discourse, and I take the liberty to tell you everybody stands amazed at it.

[The Same to the Same.]

Same date. Ten at night—The physicians say they cannot judge till to-morrow whether the Queen's illness will end in a fit of the gout, an intermitting fever, or a continued one upon the spirits, but they fear the last. However they do not even in that case see any reason yet to apprehend danger; some think that she is too much inclined to sleep.

W. Bromley, Secretary of State, to the Lord Treasurer.

1713, December 25. Windsor Castle—Since we have not the satisfaction and support your Lordship's company would give us here, under our affliction and concern for our good mistress, I take the liberty to acquaint you that the physicians think her Majesty a good deal better than she was yesterday. I find the Lords impatiently wish for you here, and hope they shall see you before to-morrow at noon.

Lord Middleton to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, December 28. Wollaton—If something be not soon done about Sherwood Forest there will be such a loss in the red deer as a great many years will not recover. The wood being almost quite destroyed in the body of the forest, the deer were wont to ramble in the winter time for subsistence into adjoining parts of the country, and many were there killed. The Duke of Newcastle to prevent this ordered hay to be given upon the forest when the weather was severe, for which I suppose he had an allowance from the Queen, which preserved them. I believe about a hundred loads of hay would be sufficient, if you please to give your order to Mr. Digby about it.

J. Digby to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, December 28—On the very low and distressed condition of the forest of Sherwood. The number of deer now there and in the purlieus may amount to seven hundred, of which there may be about forty brace of stags which will not be kept within bounds without the necessary relief that has always been provided for them. It is now at least a month later than the usual time of relieving them with hay night and morning. The weather has yet been very favourable, but upon the first storm we have of frost and snow the greatest part of our male deer will go off into the purlieu woods, where they have so many enemies, and so little care can be taken of them that very few will live to return to the forest in the summer season.

I wrote to the Duchess of Newcastle some time since and gave her the same account, but have not been favoured with an answer.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713, December 30—In my last I hinted something of the necessity there was for the Government to exert itself, so far as may tend to check of the fury of a party who grow insolent by the indulgence of their superiors. It is no new temper—"these things thou did'st and I kept silence," &c., was a complaint moved even from heaven itself by the insolence of men. God knows I would be the last in this nation who should prompt justice, especially on the men I mean; but we restrain our children from playing with gunpowder, lest they blast themselves and blow up the house. It has been with amazement that I have observed these men on the late surprise of her Majesty's indisposition, and it fills every honest faithful subject of her Majesty's with indignation to see these men brighten their faces and betray a secret satisfaction at the appearance of that danger which every good man trembled at, and now how do they feign a joy at her Majesty's recovery, which anyone may see is rather a visible disappointment to them.

In like manner, upon the little disorder at Canterbury among the marines, how did they magnify it to such a degree as if half the kingdom had been in arms. What joy did they express at the hopes of seeing some blood shed among us! And how do they appear displeased at the disappointment.

I need say no more than this to prove to you that this spirit of rage and fury is gone too far for the clemency and moderation of the administration to have any effect upon; and the mercy of the Government to them is but like a little water cast on a great fire which makes it burn with the more fury.

It is true when we call for fire from heaven, &c., we know not what spirit we are of. But resentment in an injured insulted Government is as necessary to the public safety as correction is in a family. What I say proceeds from what I see daily in the conduct of a party who have vowed the destruction of the present administration, and who own themselves not to be obliged or won by the tenderest usage in the world. God deliver her Majesty and all her faithful servants out of their hands.

Viscount Bolingbroke to [the Lord Treasurer].

1713, December 31. Windsor Castle—The Queen recovers as fast and as well as an honest heart can wish. She slept nine hours this night.

The Irish Parliament adjourned the 24th, the Lords for a fortnight, the Commons for three weeks. Should they ever meet again?

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Brett to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, December 31. Spring Grove—Mr. Netterville has encouraged me to acquaint your Lordship with the highest preferment I desire, which is a prebend of Canterbury. Though I cannot plead any desert which may entitle me to such a favour, but a fair plea for it is, that from the foundation of the Dean and Chapter to this day either the Dean or some of the prebendaries have always been natives of Kent. Dr. Belk, the last prebendary that died, was also the last Kentish man of the society, and Dr. Higden succeeded him; so that there is not at this day one man on that foundation who was born in this county, which never happened before since the Reformation. I acknowledge this cannot give me or any native of Kent a right to a prebend, but if it be allowed that there has been such a custom, and that you are willing to continue it, the gentlemen of the county in general must think themselves obliged by the favour.

[Sir Scipio Hill to the Earl of Oxford.]

[1713?]—I send you here enclosed two letters of P[etkum?]. I have another of him upon the question I have moved in my former to him to know *quantum sufficit*, he is not well pleased with that question, he tells me his circumstances, that he serves a Prince who is not in a capacity to pay him, neither hath he received any part of his allowance these five years, that he is not interested, but should be glad to enjoy a reasonable pension monthly or quarterly well paid, which would encourage him to serve with integrity. To conclude, I find I have clogged his stomach to that degree with promises that he wants a cordial, and in my humble opinion your Lordship should remit him one hundred and fifty pounds next Tuesday, and rather more than less, for I know no man in Europe is more fit to serve your Lordship in this critical juncture (particularly with the character of resident of that Duke), for if you should take him immediately in the Queen's service then he is of no use, this is my humble opinion. I have told him he should have a categorical answer by next Tuesday's post.

Robert Monckton to [the Earl of Oxford].

[*c.* 1713]—I beg you would not forget to speak to Sir Robert Davers for his assistance to me at Ipswich, with which I hope we may exclude their Recorder Thompson, and Churchill also. Sir Robert is so heavy that unless you excite him he will not move. This morning Lord Pelham promised Munson to bring him in to my place at Aldborough.

It is mightily whispered about in our House that Mrs. Arundel has gained the royal ear, into which she instils my Lord Anglesey's dictates, and that they may thence expect all they can wish for.

T. B[ateman to Lord Harley].

1713-14, January 2—All the best front of Petworth House is burnt down, but the Duke [of Somerset]'s apartment, which lay to the other

front, is standing, as I am told the chapel is. The fire began in the chaplain's room.

To hear of your safe arrival at Wimpole was acceptable news to my wife and myself.

[Viscount Dupplin to his aunt ——.]

1713-14, January 2. Poland Street—Your niece's dear babies are in a very good way of recovery. They are much troubled with coughs, but Dr. Radcliffe says he'll cure them of that in a little time. To see three beds full at once was not very agreeable. I'm mighty glad my aunt recovers so well. I pray God give her strength to get soon out of that dirty hole you're in, that your friends may have the pleasure of waiting upon you. Lord Harley and pretty Neddy are well at Wimpole. The Queen is perfectly recovered. Lord Treasurer is well and gone this morning to Windsor.

Sir William Wyndham to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713-14, January 2—Having obtained the Queen's leave to go to-morrow to Petworth to wait on the Duke of Somerset on the occasion of the misfortune which happened on Thursday to his house, I thought it my duty to make my excuses to you for not attending you at the Treasury on Tuesday as I intended.

Sir James Abercrombie to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, January [3-]14, N.S. Dunkirk—Forwarding a "Memoire au Sujet de la Demolition de Dunkerque" with a "Réponse au susdit Memoire," and a coloured plan of the fortifications, &c., at Dunkirk.

B. L. Calvert to the Lord Treasurer.

1713-14, January 4—Last Sunday the Bishop of Hereford was pleased to admit me into the communion of the Church of England and administer to me the blessed sacrament. I beg to have your final directions about my children, three of whom I would willingly put under the care of Mr. Lawton. Of my eldest son and two daughters I will take strict care myself.

The Earl of Manchester to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713-14, January 5. Leen—I have not for some time mentioned anything relating to the arrears due to me, but, the Parliament having assisted her Majesty, and I understand your Lordship is making payments to everybody, I hope that you may have now ordered me what you have so often assured me should be done. At Michaelmas, 1710, there remained due to me 2,500*l.* on the allowance of 1,500*l* per annum, which commenced from Michaelmas, 1707, I having received only 2,000*l.* This her Majesty was pleased to give me when I was in her service at Venice of her own accord, in consideration of my services and the great expense I had been at in public embassies, with a promise that it should be continued till she could do better for me.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to the LORD TREASURER.

1713-4, January 6—Let me in a confidence of your friendship mention to you an affair which will not be very troublesome I imagine to you, and which will be an extreme favour to your humble servant.

When I bought Doleman's estate, I took upon me, as part of the purchase money to him, a mortgage which he had given of 3,500*l.* Some time ago I had, which I never shall have again, money by me to clear this incumbrance, but Lund broke and I could not do it.

Since that time I have thought the mortgagee used me impertinently, and have therefore given him notice to receive his money the 27th of this month, which I must pay him at a very dear rate, unless you think this proposition practicable and reasonable. Enclosed you find an exact account of what I have advanced to the Queen's messengers, who have been more employed within these three years than in thirty years before, and who could not have gone through this service had I not furnished them with money. If you will advance me, on account of these messengers' bills, the sum due from them to me, and be so good as to pay me half a year's secret service, the Queen will be at no extraordinary expense, and I shall be made very easy by it.

I have spent four hours at least this day with Lord Strafford and Mr. Secretary Bromley. You may certainly dispatch him to-morrow.

C. F. KREIENBERG to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, January 7. Pall Mall—I am almost killed with the prodigious vexations of my creditors, and am sure if you knew what I undergo at this time you would help me. I have hitherto begged not to speak to Baron Schutz about it, as Mr. Decker and others threaten me; but now they will come to this extremity if I cannot do something at least. Therefore I humbly beseech you to help me with a little.

P[HILIP] BISHOP OF HEREFORD to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, January 8—I received a letter the last post from the Bishop of London concerning the only son of the late Lord Strangford, who has been bred a Roman Catholic, but is now desirous to embrace the Protestant religion. He is now at Utrecht, and my Lord desires me to inform myself whether, if he comes to England, he must have a special licence for that purpose. I shall be glad to know your pleasure as to what may be done in this affair.

DR. GEORGE HICKES to CHARLW[OOD] LAWTON.

1713-14, January 11—My Saxon mistress, as I call Mrs. Elstob, was with me about a fortnight since. I then asked her what was become of her curious copy of the *Textus Roffensis*, which she intended to present to my Lord Treasurer; she said it was in his Lordship's library. I asked her then what my Lord said, when she presented it to him; she replied that she was ashamed to present it to him, but put it in his library, without presenting it to him or desiring Mr. Wanley to shew it to him. At this answer I was much troubled, and chid her for her sheepish modesty, because I knew my Lord would have been pleased with the admirable transcript, which is as like to the original as ever any copy of a picture was

to its original, and I daresay there is not one erratum so much as of a letter in it, and that it may be depended upon, as much as the *Textus* itself. Perhaps my Lord hath not seen it or heard of it, and therefore I pray you to ask his Lordship if he hath seen it, when you have an opportunity. It is one of the finest curiosities of its kind in his noble library, and if he hath seen it, the knowledge thereof by you will be very acceptable to me.

The Earl of Orrery to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713, January 11. Brussels—Enclosing a memorial from the Prince de Ligne asking that an agreement as to the family estates of Ligne, made in the year 1610, between the houses of Ligne and Espinois, and which had been approved by King James the First and King Charles the Second, might be supported by the representatives of Great Britain at the treaty of Utrecht. *Memorial enclosed. French.*

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713-14, January 13. Edinburgh—I send you my proxy with Lord Balmarino's. He and the other Scots peers are gone to London, except the Earl of Home and Lord Northesk. I return you thanks for congratulating me on the mark of favour the Queen has been pleased to honour me with; which be pleased to tell Lord Dartmouth to despatch to me soon, that I may be qualified to appoint my deputy in that office before I leave this place.

The Duke of Douglas to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, January 19. Edinburgh—Begging Lord Oxford's good offices to procure for him the command of the Scots troop of Grenadiers, lately vacant by the death of the Earl of Crawford. Has written to the Earl of Mar, who will inform his Lordship more fully of the grounds of his pretensions.

Viscount Bolingbroke to the Lord Treasurer.

1713-14, January 21. Whitehall—A brief official letter to the effect that the Queen had instructed Sir James Wishart, through the Lords of the Admiralty, to demand of the deputies of Catalonia, the immediate release of Mr. Blyke, and also the value of all stores forced out of his hands; in case of refusal, he was to take by force due satisfaction for the same. Wishart was likewise in both cases to expect proper satisfaction for the affront. *Signed.*

Frances Viscountess Bolingbroke to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713-14, January 22. Bucklebury—Thanking him for the great favour lately shown to her uncle Hungerford.

Lady Masham to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713-14, January 23. Windsor—I was very sorry to see a letter from your Lordship, expecting yourself every moment; I have acquainted the Queen with your indisposition, and her Majesty commanded me to let you know she was very much troubled you were

hindered by illness, and hopes if you find yourself no better to-morrow you will not venture to come; I must tell you from myself I do not think the Queen so well as she was when you saw her last. I pray God you may find her better than I think her at present; in the night, last night, she was much sunk with 'stoles,' but I thank God a little better this morning, and continues better, but is still, in my opinon, far from well. I should be mighty glad your Lordship were able to come, and when you are, pray do; what I write concerning her health she knows nothing of, neither would I for the world have her know it, for our business must be to hearten her, for she is too apprehensive already of her ill state of health; I don't think of my own uneasiness my concern is so great for her; I beg the continuance of your prayers for us both, and mine shall always be fervent for your Lordship's recovery.

LADY MASHAM to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, January 27. [Windsor]—By the same way you will receive a letter from the doctor. I was unwilling to send a messenger on purpose, there are so many people upon the watch, but the Doctor has given you his thoughts upon our dear Queen's condition. which makes me hardly able to hold up my head, and I shall only tell you I pray God you may be able to come here on Friday. Saturday being a fast the Queen will take that for a very good reason your coming a day before you use to do, or else she might think you came sooner upon the account of her health, which would make her think the Doctor thought her worse than he would tell her. I am so much out of order I know not what I write, so pray excuse all faults.

Postscript.—I have just received the Queen's commands to tell you she is glad to hear you are so well as to think of coming here on Friday, in the meantime will not trouble you with anything.

MADAM F. D'AUVERQUERQUE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, February 9. St. James's—Takes the liberty to pray Lord Oxford to grant her an hour in which she can speak of her affairs. *French.*

SIR ROGER BRADSHAIGH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, February 9—An unfortunate accident has happened to me which nothing can redress but an immediate payment of the debt. I beg I may be permitted to wait upon you as soon as possible, for without satisfaction made this day in town it will be too late to prevent an execution upon my goods in the country, which they must have notice of by this night's post, the writ being already sent down. The noise it will make in the country, as likewise the concern my wife will be under in my absence give me all the disquiet imaginable.*

J. B to THOMAS GORDON, at the Bacchus and Bunch of Grapes, in Broad Street, Golden Square.

1713[-14], February 11. Edinburgh—It is a wonder to me that among the many friends you have in London nothing is as yet done for you to purpose. When I was there (about three-quarters of a year ago) I heard many of them give you the character which I knew you deserved; but the spirit of covetousness and pusillanimity is the characteristic of English Whigs, and it is likewise so prevalent here

* There are numerous other letters in the collection from the same writer, of an earlier date, on his impecunious state, and desire for help in some form or other.

that I am fearful this sordid temper will prove their destruction. They will clamour against the proceedings of the great folk, but will not be at a penny charge to countermine them. Now the Tories are of a quite different temper, they spare no pains, no danger, nor expenses to support their friends when in want, and deliver them from punishment when their zeal for their party makes their saucepan boil over. You desire to know what our friends here think of the present situation of affairs. I can assure you they have a dismal prospect of things, they now feel the fatal effects of the Union, they see they are betrayed by those in whom they put confidence, that the court and ministry, if not contriving, are at least conniving at their destruction. Only they solace themselves with the hopes that their bow must speedily break because it is so much bent in favour of the Pretender, upon whose appearance they expect powerful assistance from Hanover, and that when that House comes to the throne they shall have the Union meliorated and made more agreeable to this Church and country. It has been whispered that the Whigs here have been contriving an address to that illustrious House, but that was opposed by the more prudent amongst them as dangerous to themselves, and as that which would give an handle to the legislature now in being to repeal the Act of Settlement, and thereby frustrate all their hopes. But certainly the Elector knows of their firm adherence to the interest of his family, and cannot but take pleasure that so great a body of people, as the Presbyterians here and in Ireland are, will adventure their all for him against the Pretender's attempts. They are not without hopes that the Parliament may yet show their dislike to the Lord Treasurer's management, for we hear that several rank Tories are now so disgusted that they would willingly call him to an account if he would but let the Parliament sit, they likewise hope that the delays of the general peace will increase the ferment, it being commonly reported that the French King will not fulfil his promises to the English Ministry, but will lay them down to his measures, knowing they have proceeded so far with him that they dare not retract and at the same time dare not avow to the nation what they have done separately, which brings to my mind an expression of a French Papist, who said lately that England not long ago had the King of France under its thumb, but now the King of France had England under his foot. There are great animosities between the juring and non-juring Presbyterian ministers. I am told there are four of them in Galloway, viz., Hepburn, McMillan, Murdoch, and Red, who formerly were reckoned Cameronians. These have vast crowds following them, and although they have churches yet they preach in the fields. They are for renewing the covenant, and speak bitterly against those that differ from them, but especially against those ministers who have taken the oaths. I fear that sort of people may be easily imposed upon to commit some acts of folly, whereby the Church and country may be involved in the utmost confusion. We have an account here that Jacobitism prevails mightily amongst your Church of England clergy, notwithstanding they have taken the oaths. Pray let me know per your next what ground there is for that report.

NEWS LETTER.

1713-14, February 16. London—Letters from Holland advise that the Spanish plenipotentiaries at Utrecht having received the ratifica-

tions of the treaty of commerce with Great Britain, having given notice thereof to my Lord Bishop of London, and have desired his lordship to appoint a day for exchanging the said ratifications, as also those of the peace, upon which his lordship is expected in England, having obtained her Majesty's leave to return upon the Earl of Strafford's arrival, who is at Brussels on his way thither.

They write from Flanders that the French have bought up a prodigious number of horses in the Low Countries to remount their cavalry, and that seeing now they are at full liberty to buy horses they mount their troops with stronger horses and larger size than they had before, so that the cavalry will be in a better condition than they have been during the whole war, especially their dragoons.

The rumour of a second meeting between Prince Eugene and the Marshal Villars, which came in our last letters from Paris, is not confirmed from Germany, but letters from Frankfort say positively that Prince Eugene is gone directly for Vienna. Time alone must set that matter to rights. The preparations of war go on with the utmost application on both sides, which seem to assure us that the reports aforesaid can have nothing in them.

Letters from Vienna give an account that the appearance of a treaty between France and the King of Poland gives great uneasiness to the Imperial Court, and that the Count de Fürstemberg is ordered to go to the Court of King Augustus and demand a positive declaration of that prince's intentions. The Emperor inclines very much to accept the offers of the Czar of Moscovy for lending 30,000 men for five years, the regiments of Spaniards and Italians, which were sent from Naples and Milan into Hungary, are ordered to be recruited and enlarged in Croatia, and each regiment will be made up two battalions, so that 12 Imperial regiments of 2,000 men each will be drawn from Hungary in their room.

They write from Italy that they make great preparations for war on the frontiers of the Duchy of Milan, and that the Germans pretend to have an army of 30,000 men there besides the troops of the Duchy. Also at Naples they make naval preparations for a descent upon Sicily, which at least they pretend shall keep that island so alarmed as that the new King of Sicily shall be able to draw no assistance, either of men or money from thence.

By an English vessel come directly in 18 days from Barcelona, we have the following account of the state of the city. The master says that he was laden with fish for Marseilles, but by a cruiser off Barcelona he was obliged to put in there, and was promised a good market for his fish, and ready money, that they used him very civilly, and paid him for his fish in bills accepted on the Bank of Genoa. They offered him a great price for freight, if he would sail to Naples and bring back such goods as they should load there, which he did, and was loaded with oil and salt and gunpowder, and 30,000 gold ducats, which he brought back safe to Barcelona. He says he carried several ladies and other women, wives of the inhabitants and their children to Naples that they might avoid the danger of a bombardment. He says the inhabitants have made deep arched vaults under their houses to secure their families and provisions, expecting to have their houses burnt to the ground. They have vast magazines of all sorts of provisions, which he says are sufficient to serve the whole city for a year. He says there are 18,000 men in the city who

bear arms, including the inhabitants, and that the country is all up in arms again, so that the Spanish army is so harassed on every side that if the French do not send an army to help them they will never be able to take the city.

We hear orders have been sent to the Lord Chancellor of Scotland to send notice to all the elected peers to hasten their coming up to the meeting of the parliament.

Yesterday Mr. Bedford was tried for a book called the Hereditary Right of the Crown of England asserted, &c., and was found guilty of being the author, printer, and publisher of the same. The Queen had eight counsel and Mr. Bedford four, viz.: Sir Peter King, Mr. Darnal, the Common Serjeant, and Mr. Fortescue. My lord Chief Justice will fix the fine next term, till which time he is to be confined. This day the Convocation met and made choice of Dr. Stanhope, Dean of Canterbury, for their prolocutor. The parliament met this day, when the Lord Chancellor acquainted the Commons that it was her Majesty's pleasure that they forthwith choose a Speaker and present him to her Majesty on Thursday next at 12 o'clock, and the House being returned they made choice *nemine contradicente* of Sir Thomas Hanmer, Baronet, for their Speaker.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713[-14], February 19—It is impossible but with the utmost indignation to hear and converse among the constant indecencies and furious excursions of the people here, who set themselves in opposition to her Majesty and all that are faithful to her interests, and sometimes I suspect myself whether I do not really complain to your Lordship rather to give room to the resentment than to inform you of the fact. Sure justice vested with legal power will not always suffer. If the Government never exerts itself the friends of the Government will not be protected.

The new champion of the party, Mr. Steele, is now to try an experiment upon the Ministry, and shall set up to make speeches in the House and print them, that the malice of the party may be gratified and the Ministry be bullied in as public a manner as possible. If, my lord, the virulent writings of this man may not be voted seditious none ever may, and if thereupon he may be expelled it would suppress and discourage the party and break all their new measures. But if not the mischiefs which will follow will be innumerable; they are prepared for his losing his election of Stockbridge, and Mr. Hampden has the town of Wendover or Berwick to put him into. But if he may be expelled it would break all their projects at once. It is far from me to move your Lordship to personal resentment. It is the party not the man, and I see such black designs in their view that, if possible, they will run things up to blood and confusion.

Mr. Steele (as they say) is to move for calling over the Duke of Cambridge, and if they could draw that young gentleman into their measures they would show themselves quickly, for they are not ashamed to say they want only a head to make a beginning.

I have no excuse to make for this freedom, my Lord, but my zeal for her Majesty's safety, and the nation's peace; the ferment is so

great that they want nothing but power, and believe that [they] do not want that, and this makes them insufferably insolent. God deliver your Lordship and all her Majesty's faithful servants out of their hands.

[Erasmus Lewis] to [Thomas] Harley, at the Hague.

1713-14, February 19. Whitehall—The Queen, though perfectly well in health, has thought fit to put off her speaking to the Parliament till Tuesday next, by which time it is hoped the Scotch Lords will be here.

There has been a person seized in the Isle of Man upon suspicion that he was the Macartney, for the apprehending of whom a proclamation had been published, it is much doubted whether he be really that Macartney, however there seems to be sufficient ground for putting him in arrest, since he resembles him very much, had two brace of pistols in his pockets, and bills on one Macartney for eight hundred pounds. Pray let me know whether you allow all letters directed to the gentlemen who went with you to be sent under your cover.

Matthew Decker to [Thomas Harley?]

1713-14, February 19-March 2. London—Last Wednesday we had a general court of the South Sea Company, where was laid before them, the Assiento trade, as it was designed by the Queen to be given. Instead of joyful accepting, there rose a great many warm debates, mixed with some reflections, upon that trade, and the conclusion was that the proposals of the Court of Directors laid before the General Court should be printed, and to-morrow be given out to the members; upon which the General Court adjourned to Wednesday next. This slight, for I think I cannot call it anything else, may be repented by the gentlemen of the South Sea, for it is still in the Queen's power to give it to whom she please, and if I am well informed, something seems to be intended by the court, if so it may prove for the benefit of the African Company; of this I shall be able to say something more by my next. The run upon the Bank is entirely over, notwithstanding that the directors of that Corporation have thought fit to call yesterday for another twenty per cent. upon those that subscribed to the circulation of Exchequer notes. If they follow the same rule, that is to call without reason, as it appears to most of their own friends, I believe they will call for the remaining fifty per cent. What is already called, and the fear of a further call makes money terrible scarce; upon which the Stocks are fallen, the price I'll note here under: South Sea Stock, 85½ per cent.; Bank Stock, 118½; East India, 117.

Lord Lansdowne to [the Earl of Oxford.]

1713-14, February 20—Mr. Drew, who was Archdeacon of Cornwall, a gentleman of great worth, and much esteemed amongst us, being dead, and the nomination of his successor being in the option of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who designs it, as I am informed,

for Mr. Hoadly, I am under an absolute necessity to give your Lordship this advertisement of it, that her Majesty may be timely advised to prevent the inconveniences of an ill choice. You will easily foresee the mischiefs that must naturally attend any divisions amongst our clergy, and therefore I need use no arguments to desire you to prevent it, but only give an advertisement of the danger.

I have another matter to propose to your Lordship, of which I shall make very good use for your service. My father and afterwards my brother had an office, which was called Master Swan-herd of all the Royalties belonging to the Crown in the several rivers, etc. It is a patent place without one farthing of profits, and therefore I never thought it worth my while to desire the continuance of it in my family, but it has lain dormant ever since my brother's death. Now if your Lordship will please to bestow this office upon Sir William Pendarves, which indeed is bestowing nothing at all but the name of an office, you will very much oblige him and me. You could not well refuse it if I asked it for myself, and the favour will be greater if you give it to my friend.

Postscript.—I beseech your Lordship to give dispatch to this request about Sir W. Pendarves, for I have a very good use to make of it for your own service.

The Archbishop of Canterbury to Mr. Bateman, in Scotland Yard.

1713-14, February 21. Lambeth—I must desire you by the first opportunity to return my thanks to my Lord Treasurer for his friendly intimation relating to her Majesty's licence to the Synod, the first session of which begins on Friday next, a day of form, more than of very material business.

For doing of any considerable business her Majesty's licence is necessary, the Act of Submission so requiring. As to the two last forms of licence, there was in them a restrictive clause, appointing a quorum of bishops, which was not only out of the order of succession as to the persons, but seemed also to be too narrow in point of number, to secure the business of Convocation from the hazard of contingent absences. However, I readily submitted, and shall do so again if the tenor of them be repeated. For it is my humble opinion that her Majesty's supremacy over the Synod ought to be asserted more strenuously than has of late been done by some. But I could neither then nor since discern any fruit arising from that new clause, but from it I have observed that there have, at least occasionally, arisen some misunderstandings of the multiplying of which God knows there is little need. And, as I could not then, so neither can I now, so far strain my judgment as to think that unusual forms and methods in Convocation are so conducive to the end of it, as the old ones; and I am far from being singular and alone in this thought. *Signed:* "Canterbury."

William Thomas to [Thomas Harley].

1713-14, February 23—The adjournment of both Houses to this day se'nnight is not done on account of the Queen's health, her Majesty being so well as to be at chapel last Sunday. The ratifications of the Treaty with Spain are expected from your side. I do

not know whether their arrival be necessary to the opening of Parliament, but there are several members of the Upper House still absent, among them eight of the North British lords; most of them will be here in about a week.

COUNT PETKUM to [THOMAS HARLEY].

1714 [February 22-March 4. The Hague]—Desiring him to appoint a time for an interview with reference to certain matters the Lord Treasurer had to communicate through his Excellency.

M. D. C. to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1713-14, February 23—Praying forgiveness for sending him such a scandalous and malicious letter about Capt. George Porter.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Some poor rascally creature who would raise a merit by railing at one G. Porter, and then confessing himself a rogue for doing it. I take the writer to be equally villain as an accuser in his first letter and retracting it since by this letter."

J. D'ALAIS to [THOMAS] HARLEY.

1714 [February 24-] March 6, N.S. Hanover—Having seen by your letter from the Hague of the 2nd inst., that you are satisfied with the "maison de Dom," I have taken the apartments of which I spoke to you, which include the great dining-room. I shall also see about a lodging for the gentlemen of your suite, and I am writing to-day to Hamburgh for some bottles of the best Pontac wine, although Chapuzeau found some of it a few days ago in his cellar which is not bad. If I may know the day on which you propose to arrive here, I shall have the honour to come to meet you, and I will beg the commandant of the city to keep the gate open during the night. *French.*

SIR ROGER BRADSHAIGH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, February 27—If you were sensible how much I suffer for want of the 400*l.* you have been so kind to promise me, I am sure you have so much goodness and compassion for me that I should not long be without it. Let me entreat your assistance in this extremity with as much speed as possible.

DR. RICHARD BENTLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, February 27. Trinity College—The living of Bocking, in Essex, about twenty miles from this place, being now in her Majesty's gift upon the promotion of the Bishop of Chester to the see of York, I humbly crave leave to acquaint your Lordship that if I may be thought worthy of this country benefice lying at so convenient a distance, I should esteem it a greater kindness than if I were offered a rich bishopric. And if I may owe this great and real favour to your Lordship's interest and intercession, you will lay a new obligation of perpetual gratitude and service upon me.

VISCOUNT LONGFORD to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, February 28—I have waited in town these eighteen months upon the promise the Duke of Ormond made me that he had prevailed with you that I should have a patent for a term of years for my pension in Ireland. His Grace also spoke to you for me in relation to the government of Barbados, but whether I may hope for that or any other government in the Plantations abroad that would be worth my going so far I cannot tell; yet I hope you will think my pretensions as good as another's, since I have served her Majesty and been abroad the most part of the late war, and suffered very much in the last Ministry, being thought of the other side.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford: "Lord Slane, now Lord Viscount Longford, his pretensions."

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, March 2—I believe you are not at all surprised at the unexampled fury of the party, their public conduct has threatened this a long while, as the justice of your Lordship's cause will not suffer any discouragement either from the growing enemies, or which is worse unsteady friends of the administration. So it puts me in mind of the words of Henry IV. of France to his predecessor Henry III., when he seemed amazed at the rage of the Guises and of the Parisians, and asked him what course was left to take. "But one, sir," said the King of Navarre. "What's that, cousin?" said Henry III. "To conquer," replied the great Henry, and accordingly he attacked the enemy and delivered him.

Your Lordship has but one way left with these men, they must be conquered, or the nation is undone, the Queen undone, and all her Majesty's faithful friends and servants sacrificed to a raging and merciless party. I presume your Lordship is not destitute either of means or counsel; you have the fountain of honour, the strength and the right on your side; all legal steps are justifiable in such a case. If a slack rein is held now, they will run down all before them, clemency and kindness will prevail no more with men that can be ungrateful, or justice and reason with men who resolve to play the bully. They openly declare that they have thrown away the scabbard, and as they expect so they will give no quarter.

They have begun their attack where they found an advantage. I am sorry that gentleman laid himself so open to them. But they have by this step pointed the way out, and told what ought to be done to the most insolent pamphlet writer that ever was permitted to go unpunished. I hope the occasion will appear of too much moment to be overslipped, though they pretend to give no time for it. God deliver your Lordship from the hands of these violent and unreasonable men.

SIR R[ICHARD] HOWE, M.P. for Wilts, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, March 3. London—I expect every moment to receive the ill news of the death of a very worthy canon of Salisbury Cathedral, which loss would be in a great degree repaired by the speedy choice of another of eminent character, if the Chapter were permitted to proceed to a free election. But it is no little affliction as well as

surprise to me to be informed that some great persons have formed so strong an interest for one Mr. Craig, a Scotchman, and creature of the Bishop of Salisbury, that the Chapter is like to be strongly influenced in his favour. Mr. Craig is a person looked upon as disaffected to the interest of the Church, and a constant opposer of her Majesty's most loyal subjects on all public occasions. I am sure I speak the sense of all the worthy clergy and gentry of the county of Wilts.

News Letter.

1713-14, March 4—Several petitions were read yesterday in the House of Commons relating to elections, and referred to the Committee of Privileges and Elections. Three other petitions, viz., for Woodstock, Ipswich, and New Sarum, being read, the merits of the said elections are ordered to be heard at the Bar of the House.

Mr. Pigot, Gentleman of the Horse to the Duke of Somerset, having owed his Grace a considerable sum of money, which by his extravagancies it was impossible for him to pay, cut his own throat last Friday at Farnham and died an hour after.

Yesterday Mr. John Morphew, the publisher, was taken into custody of Mr. Emmet, a messenger that belongs to the House of Lords, and notice being given them, orders were sent to bring him to be examined before their Lordships, but before the return of the messenger with him the Lords adjourned.

To-morrow the Duke of Buckingham's daughter is to be christened The Queen and the Lady Gainsborough stand godmothers and the Earl of Portmore godfather.

On Monday last the Earl of Mar, one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, had Mr. Barber up for "The Public Spirit of the Whigs," and he was bound over by Mr. Erasmus Lewis to appear the first day of the next term.

Last night the Morrocco Ambassador had public audience of her Majesty, being introduced by the Lord Bolingbroke.

Yesterday the Lords ordered Mr. Barber to be taken into custody. And this day went to her Majesty with their address of thanks.

Letters from the Marquis de Torcy advise that on the eleventh instant the French King received an express that the peace between his most Christian Majesty and the Emperor was signed the sixth at Rastadt, of which good news we congratulate our customers.

This day the Commons resolved to go into a committee of the whole House on Saturday, to consider of the Act for securing the freedom of Parliament by further qualifying the members.

The address presented to her Majesty agreed to, and several petitions relating to undue elections were read.

"M. Savage" to the Earl of Oxford.

1713-14, March 5—I received your Lordship's answer to mine of Sunday last in Tuesday's "Postboy," and on Saturday evening at seven o'clock will expect your Lordship at one Mrs. Pickup's, at the Blue Canister, over against the dead wall in King Street, beyond Golden Square, where if you please to enquire for me.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Anonymous, viz. (*or* via) M. Savage. I suppose a trick. This is the second letter. It came not by the penny post, see the cover."

ERASMUS LEWIS to [THOMAS HARLEY].

1713-14, March 5. Whitehall—By this post you will receive the addresses of the Lords and Commons, conceived I believe in stronger terms than you expected; and what is still more remarkable, they passed without any division.

Mr. Walpole, formerly secretary of the embassy at the Hague, made an harangue against the conditions of the treaties, and complained of the great distress the empire and the States were in, since the former power could obtain no peace at all with France, nor the latter with Spain. This happened some hours after we had received advice that the peace between the empire and France had been concluded at Rastadt on the 6th inst. [N.S.].

NEWS LETTER.

1713-14, March 6—Yesterday morning Mr. John Barber surrendered himself to Mr. Emmet, the messenger, upon account of printing the pamphlet called "The Public Spirit of the Whigs," which scandalously reflects on the Scotch nation and nobility. The same day Mr. John Morphew was examined, who said to this effect—That the impression of the book was sent to him by porters, but did not know them. He was asked who printed it. He said he thought Mr. Barber. Then he was ordered to withdraw, and Mr. Barber was called in and examined, and being asked whether he printed it, he said he was bound over for it, and hoped he should not be obliged to accuse himself, or to that effect, and being ordered to withdraw, he, with Morphew, was continued in custody, with orders to be kept separately.

Yesterday her Majesty touched several persons for the evil.

Yesterday a petition touching the election of the City of London was read, and the question being put, whether the merits of the election should be heard at the Bar of the House or by a Committee of Elections, it was carried for the latter. Yeas, one hundred and nineteen; Noes, one hundred and seventeen.

This day the servants of Mr. Barber and Morphew were examined in relation to the publishing and printing "The Public Spirit of the Whigs," and one Lambert, another of Barber's servants, was ordered to appear. Both Barber and Morphew are continued in custody, and the Lords are adjourned till Tuesday next.

NEWS LETTER.

1713-14, March 6. London—Letters from Stockholm advise that the affairs of that kingdom are in great confusion, the King having disapproved of what the Regency have done in calling together the Estates of the country, and having given such orders as they find impracticable to be put into execution, without hazarding the whole kingdom. Particularly he has commanded them to send a new army into Pomerania, where they have not possession of any part of the country, and are not able to subsist, and in the meantime they will be left naked on the side of Finland, where the Moscovites have a great army ready to break into the heart of Swedeland.

Those from Copenhagen say the Danish fleet is fitting out with all expedition in order to join the Moscovites, to preserve the command of the sea, so to be able to transport their troops to Finland, which they could not otherwise do, the Swedes being fitting out thirty-three men of war to fall upon them. The Czar is at the whole charge of the Danish fleet, so that it may be said the Moscovites have hired the Danish fleet. It is certain that without this conjunction the Swedes would be too hard for the Moscovites at sea, and the Swedes talk that if the Danes send their fleet to sea from home, they will come and bombard Copenhagen, and make a descent into the Isles of Zeeland and Funen, which is thought will be an effectual means to keep the Danish fleet at home.

They write from Vienna that the Emperor is extremely disgusted that the King of Sweden has refused his proposal for mediator of the differences between the Northern Powers and the Swedes, and has accepted that of France, and that an order is ordered to be sent to his Swedish Majesty to acquaint him that as he will not accept the mediation of his Imperial Majesty, so neither will the Moscovites and Danes accept the mediation of France, so that if the war goes on to the ruin of his dominions the fault will be wholly his Swedish Majesty's but that his Imperial Majesty will take effectual measures to preserve the peace of the Empire.

Letters from the Hague advise that the States go on to increase their forces, and have given orders to all the governors of their frontier garrisons to be upon their guard for fear of any surprise, and to cause their horses to patrol without the gates of the town, and to use all precautions as in time of war. The reason of this sudden uneasiness is not known, the Prussians being entirely gone from the neighbourhood.

We hear they have begun to demolish the great sluices at Dunkirk in order to fill up the harbour, and that they are all at work demolishing the citadel, so that in a month's time there will not be any ship or vessel able to go in or out. But the Whigs are furnishing themselves with exceptions against it already, so that it will never be finished in their accounts, for they say the foundation of the works are left standing, though the contrary of that is true also.

Frequent robberies are still committed on the roads near this city, although the gaols are full of highwaymen. Of the fourteen condemned last sessions most of them are highwaymen, and the death warrant is come down for the executing twelve of them on Wednesday, among whom is the famous whistling butcher.

The three drummers that were taken up amongst the mob on the late birth-night, are discharged, having pleaded that they had been drumming to a wedding, and as they were returning were forced by the rabble to go with them against their consent.

The House of Lords have been taken up all yesterday and a great part of this day in examining Mr. Morphew, the publisher, and Mr. Barber, the printer, about the book entitled "The Public Spirit of the Whigs." Mr. Morphew was called in five times yesterday to be examined, and Mr. Barber four times, and every time remanded into custody. We do not hear they have yet discovered the author of the book.

Great endeavours were used to get the city of London's four pretenders heard at the bar of the House, but they lost it almost by a majority of one hundred, so that matter must come on only in its course.

Her Majesty has given a very obliging answer to the address of the House of Commons, and it is hoped the arts of some people to spread the fear of the Pretender will be for the future of no effect.

The Queen has received an account by an express from France that the treaty between the Emperor and France is at last signed at Rastadt, and a cessation of arms agreed on till the whole affair shall be ended, all which the Emperor, whether he will acknowledge it or not, owes to her Majesty's interposition.

This day Mr. Speaker reported her Majesty's answer to the Commons address. "Gentlemen, I take your expressions in this address very kind, and the assurance of your steady loyalty in your endeavours to prevent all malicious reports, and the confidence you have in me and in the assurance of the abhorrence you have of the reports raised by disaffected persons of the succession being in danger, and I hope by our mutual interest to suppress those malicious insinuations," and adjourned to Tuesday.

Richard Steele's Political Writings.

1713-14, March 10—Paper in De Foe's handwriting, headed by him "Collection of Scandal," and endorsed by Lord Oxford, "Heads of Scandal, received March 10, 1713-14."

In the late "Guardian."

Many repetitions of that insolence upon the Queen in three "Guardians" successively, viz., "The people of Britain expects Dunkirk to be immediately demolished."

This repeated several times and wickedly paraphrased in the "Flying Post."

The first "Englishman,"

In the letter signed "Richard Steele," where he falls upon the "Examiner," there are diverse threatening speeches to the Ministers of State, but concealed under the general head of a certain lord.

In the last "Englishman."

Page 3. The following words.

"That the honour and interest of the Queen and her love of her people hath been sacrificed to a scandal."

The examples he gives of those are as follows. *Ibid.*

1. The blackening and ridiculing the noblest parts of her reign.
2. Inhuman usage of her old servants.
3. The life of the Queen doubtful.

In the same page he subjoins the following question as follows (*sic*):—

Whether it be for the Queen's honour to have one half of her people's affections alienated from her by studied provocations?

1. This insinuates that the Queen has alienated half her people's affections by studied provocations, for if those provocations were from anyone else, why should it alienate our affections from the Queen?
2. This supposes half the people's affections alienated from her Majesty, which is malicious and scandalous to the highest degree, and God be praised is false also.

3. It is a charge upon the administration as studying to provoke the people, and consequently is a real stirring up and provoking the people against the Government, which is sedition and of the worst kind.

Page 17 he has these words.

"One might very lately have said the dignity and authority of Parliaments could not be better strengthened than by placing a despotic power in the sovereign." This he has warily expressed, but he ought to have proved that such a principle has been allowed and encouraged by the Government, for he says expressly a man would be thought to argue very well who said so.

Page 18 and also page 10, the following expressions concerning the demolishing Dunkirk:—

"The Queen's garrison is exposed by levelling the works to the mercy of the French, and the mole and harbour, which were first to be demolished, stand as they did, the terror of Great Britain."

Before this, page 10, he says, "At this day it (Dunkirk) is in a more dangerous condition as to England than it was when I wrote about the importance of it, for I insisted on the demolition of the mole and harbour, and instead of that, they have exactly, as if Mr. Tugghe's memorial had been the direction in this case, demolished the works, and left the harbour, its sluices, and all its accesses, that concern us, our trade, and our safety, in good condition."

The seditious design of this is evident, and the falsehood of it is manifest in that the accesses, as he calls them, to the mole were the risbank and forts; which guarded the access to the said harbour from us, which are all demolished, and the harbour, till it is filled up, is left open and defenceless, except by the citadel, which was in her Majesty's possession.

To say the mole and harbour stand as they did, when they are stripped of their defence, which rendered them safe, is very absurd.

Page 22. He has the following abominable reflection upon the Queen:—

"I wish thirdly that his Electoral Highness of Hanover would be so grateful to signify to all the world the perfect good understanding he has with the Court of England in as plain terms as her Majesty was pleased to declare she had with that house on her part."

This is the most malicious undutiful and reproachful thing he could possibly say of the Queen, suggesting that her Majesty having declared it was of no weight, nor ought not to be depended upon by her people without a voucher from the Elector of Hanover.

In "The Crisis."

Page 1. Of the dedication to the clergy.

He endeavours to persuade the clergy to preach sedition, and uses arguments to press the necessity, dictating arrogantly and scandalously to the ministers of the Church of England to recommend what he has collected both in their sermons and writings.

The body of his book consists only of quotations and recitings of Acts of Parliament. But in his seasonable remarks on the said quotations he has the following expressions:—

Page 27. "One cannot but think that our Popish and Jacobite party, who have been of late so bold both in writing and speaking

against the settlement of the Crown of Great Britain in the Protestant line must have some unaccountable encouragement for their support."

Here is a plain insinuation of the danger of the succession under her Majesty's administration.

In the same page he says:—

"Let me inform every Briton that loves his Queen, religion, laws, and liberties, it is his duty to appear boldly in their defence, and detect and seize those (Jacobites) enemies to his country, wherever he finds them."

Here he puts the civil justice into the hands of the rabble, and empowers them to fall upon whom they please, under the pretence of their being Jacobites.

Page 29. He asks a question relating to the settlement of our peace, which implies a strong negation, viz., "Where are the marks of a lasting security," insinuating that our settlement is without any visible security for our posterity.

Page 31. After a fulsome harangue upon the conduct of the Duke of Marlborough, he says:—

"The reputation of the Duke of Marlborough could not well be impaired without sullying the glory of Great Britain itself.

"The minds of the common people against all common sense are debauched with impressions of the Duke's affectation of prolonging the war for his own glory,. That the Duke of Marlborough was not permitted to enjoy the fruits of his glorious labour."

Here he acknowledges taking away his employment as an injury to the Duke; and that prolonging the war was the fruit of his glorious labour, which he expected, but was not permitted to enjoy.

Page 31. Speaking of the peace he says:—

"The house of Bourbon is at this juncture become more formidable and bids fairer for an universal monarchy, and to engross the whole trade of Europe than it did before the war."

This a most false and therefore scandalous suggestion, and inconsistent with what he had been saying before of the glories and conquests of the Duke of Marlborough, and with what he had printed of the importance of Dunkirk, and of France being removed 200 or 300 miles from us by the demolishing Dunkirk.

Ibid.

"The British in the midst of the enemies' garrisons withdraw themselves from the confederates."

This was false in fact, for when the Duke of Ormond withdrew, the confederates had not advanced from their first encampment, and had all their own garrisons in their rear, and were superior to the enemy, as appeared by their attacking Quesnoy, and might have continued so if by a fatal arrogance they had not in contempt of their enemy, exposed themselves in the most unsoldier-like manner in the world, which was their ruin at Landrecy.

Pages 31 and 32, speaking of Dunkirk, he says thus:—

"Which they have begun contemptuously and arbitrarily (to demolish) their own way, the mole and harbour, which only are dreadful to us, are yet untouched, and just suspicions given that they ever will be."

This needs no comment, it is in every sentence most scandalous, false, and seditious.

Page 32. Speaking of Portugal, he says:—

"Portugal has only at present a suspension of arms for its security."

This is upon the Queen also, who has engaged to get reasonable satisfaction for Portugal, as well as for the best of her allies, which engagement he here calls no security.

Page 33. Speaking of the Catalonians, he says:—

"Drawn into the war by the encouragement of the maritime powers —now abandoned and exposed."

Insinuating that her Majesty both drew the Catalonians into the snare of the war, and has basely and unrighteously abandoned and exposed them.

Page 33. Speaking of the present state of the French King's affairs, he adds:—

"What has Great Britain to hope from, but the mercy of France."

Here he represents his country as given up to France and bound hand and foot, going at the mercy of the French King.

The remainder of the whole book is an incongruous unadapted discourse on the danger of the Pretender, insinuating that we have no present security against him, but in the several laws and Acts of Parliament which he had recited, never once suggesting what further security human wit can invent or proposing anything to that end. But allowing that her Majesty's zeal for the safety of her subjects is no manner of security, &c.

The next book observable is the "Neck or Nothing," of which they have printed six thousand, and many whereof are sent down into Scotland, the author, John Dunton.

But the whole book is such a continued rhapsody of scandal and raillery that it seems enough to name it, and to collect from it would be to transcribe it from one end to the other, for it is but one continued breath of slander and scurrility on the administration, calling the Ministry vile names, and charging the Queen's faithful servants with treason, robbery, drunkenness, and all manner of crimes.

This it is hardly worth while to lay before the Ministry, except only to observe how pleasing such scandalous things are among us.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713-14, March 11—After what is printed this day in the "Flying Post," I think nothing can be so insolent, but her Majesty may expect it from these men, and if the House does not think fit to resent it, they will neither do justice to her Majesty or to her subjects, whom they represent.

The supposition that the printer is in prison, though in reality he is at full liberty, is it seems the encouragement to this offence, as if a man under conviction of one crime could not commit another. But neither is the man concerned but the party, who insultingly say the printer has the protection of a gaol, and that the Government cannot come at it nor suppress it.

I am far from prompting justice, but no faithful subject can be satisfied to see justice thus affronted, and I move your Lordship the rather because I see this as a forerunner of greater insults under the same protection. I hear the whole town cry out of this insolence as the most unparalleled affront to the person and honour of her Majesty

that ever subject was permitted unpunished to be guilty of. My zeal carries me too far, I humbly ask your Lordship's pardon. The words I speak of, and which I humbly refer you to, are in the first 26 lines of the third paragraph, the second column, "Flying Post," No. 3,462, March 11. I presume I need not send the paper, having it not at hand.

WILL[IAM] BRETON to the EARL OF STRAFFORD.

1714, March 10. Berlin—I beg leave to welcome your Excellency on this side the water, and at the same time to rejoice with you on the happy occasion of her Majesty's recovery, which is looked upon as a miracle here by all those that gave any credit to the malicious reports every post brought us from Holland. The Court of Hanover, giving credit to their British correspondents, have as I am informed, made a private treaty with the King of Denmark, by which his Majesty is engaged to assist them with a squadron of ships and a certain number of troops whenever they shall judge the succession to be in danger, their resident, Mr. Hensche, had an audience of the King ten days ago, in which he acquainted his Majesty that the accounts from Great Britain were so positive that the Queen could not live fourteen days that he had orders from his Court to represent to his Majesty that the preparations that were making in France and Lorraine, giving just apprehensions to all those that were friends to the House of Hanover, he hoped his Majesty was disposed to give such assistance to his master as the occasion might require, to which the King answered that his own interest was too much concerned for him to doubt of it. Lieutenant-General Schulenberg came hither, as I presume, upon the same business, and was alone with the King two hours, but the Ministers will not own that he had any commission. I have the honour to send you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Lord Adminstrator to her Majesty, presuming your Excellency has full instructions, and will if possible prevent the demolishing of the fortifications of Tonningen. This Court have made their representations to the Courts of Vienna and Denmark, but as everybody is persuaded, they will spill nothing but ink in the service of the house of Gottorp, I am of opinion the King of Denmark will continue to treat them "cavalierment."

The Czar is very pressing for a declaration that they shall not undertake anything against the Danes; they swear they will not be bullied by him, of which I depend more upon the master than the ministers, who are ever apprehensive of the Czar's sending a body of troops into Prussia to the ruin of their estates.

The Count Thona has been very well received at the Court of Vienna, we take it for granted they are inclined at last to proceed since they have not been very pressing as yet for a great contingent.

Copy by Thomas Harley.

NEWS LETTER.

1713-14, March 11—Last week the Lords resolved that the pamphlet entitled "The Public Spirit of the Whigs, &c.," is a false, malicious, and factious libel, highly dishonourable and scandalous to the Scotch nation, tending to the destruction of our constitution, and most injurious to her Majesty, who has often declared from the throne

that the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland was the peculiar happiness of her reign in making so full a provision for the peace and quiet of her people, and the security of our religion throughout Great Britain.

Robert, Earl of Londonderry, died last Sunday night.

Yesterday Sir William Dawes, Bart., Archbishop of York, did homage to her Majesty at St. James's.

Three regiments, viz., one from Ireland and two from hence, are ordered to be sent to Gibraltar to relieve the garrison there.

Our private letters from the Hague say that the Dutch are apprehensive of a war with the King of Prussia. The Dutch sent fifty men from Maestricht to dislodge the Prussians from Herstall, which the Prussians prevented by retiring, but his Majesty having since ordered some hundreds of men to go and retake it, the Dutch have commanded the Governor of Maestricht to reinforce those fifty men with four hundred more horse and foot, which may have very ill consequences.

The peace between Spain and Portugal is upon the point of its conclusion, and the Baron de Begue, Envoy of Lorrain, is preparing to go from the Hague to Schaffhausen by express order of his master.

This day the Lords agreed with the Commons to the address relating to the discovery of the author of "The Public Spirit of the Whigs." A clause was offered to be added, but rejected. Noes, fifty-three; yeas, thirty-five; and ordered the Lords of the White Staff to know when she would be waited on, and then adjourned till Monday.

Last night Sir Gilbert Dolben was chosen chairman of the Committee of Elections.

News Letter.

1713-14, March 13—On Tuesday morning last Mr. Williams, the Duchess Dowager of Beaufort's butler, was found murdered in Wormwood wood, near Hammersmith. He was wounded in the body in several places, but no holes found in his clothes, so it was supposed he was killed in his bed. Two sisters of his wife are taken up on suspicion, and diligent search is made after his wife, who eloped from him above a year ago.

Yesterday Mr. Speaker acquainted the House that he received a letter from one Quin, containing a scandalous offer of three hundred pounds to be paid upon passing an act. Ordered that the said Quin be taken into custody, who, being called in, said he was ignorant how to proceed to get the Act passed. A complaint being made that "The Englishman," No. forty-six, "The Crisis," and "The Close of the Englishman," all by R. Steele, Esquire, containing several paragraphs tending to sedition, highly reflecting on her Majesty, and falsely and scandalously arraigning the administration and Government, ordered that Mr. Steele do attend in his place at this day.

This day the Bishop of London was confirmed at Bow church.

All the Scotch Peers are arrived here from that kingdom, except the Earl of Breadalbane.

Her Majesty on Thursday last was taken with an aguish fit, but is now well again, having slept seven hours last night.

This day the House of Commons went on the affair of Mr. Steele, and several paragraphs were read out of "The Englishman," from January the sixteenth to January the nineteenth, "The Crisis," and

"The Close of the Englishman," upon which he desired time to make his defence against this day se'nnight, and after several debates it is put off till next Thursday.

SIR GODFREY KNELLER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1713-14, March 15—I hope your Lordship will be pleased and favour me with having my salary inserted in the new establishment, that I may have the honour of being her Majesty's servant regarded; although it was omitted by the instigation of a stingy, penurious, griping Duchess. And I humbly beg leave to observe to your Lordship that having for every of the Queen's pictures and the Royal Family's pictures before—by agreement—and have had less fifteen pounds than any other subject pays—these two hundred pounds *per annum* are in consideration paid. And I have had nothing for my attendance when the Queen is from town, all her Majesty's reign, nor any travelling wages; all which has been omitted to my great loss and detriment.

The SAME to [the SAME].

No date—Finding by your favourable expressions when I last had the honour of seeing your Lordship here, concerning my restoration and salary, I may hope of success, and hearing since that Mr. Taylour (I presume by your Lordship's obliging order) has made inquiry at the Treasurer of the Chamber's office, whether any one principal painter had a salary on the Establishment in former reigns; upon which search was made, and Mr. Taylour has an account thereof in writing of the matter of fact, from the clerk in that office. A copy of which I here humbly enclose, for fear Mr. Taylour's multitude of business (and he not being acquainted with my loss and concern) might retard the same of coming to your Lordship's hands in due time, and recommending my case further to your Lordship's incomparable goodness, judgment, and justice, I am, &c.

E[RASMUS] LEWIS to [THOMAS HARLEY] at Amsterdam.

1713-14, March 16. Whitehall—Yesterday Mr. Steele moved the House that they would address the Queen to order a state of the Demolition of Dunkirk to be laid before them, upon which he hoped to be able to make his defence and justify what he had writ. The House agreed that it was proper that matter should be laid before them when they took the state of the nation into consideration, but whatever was done in execution of the treaty in relation to Dunkirk Mr. Steele's writings were none the less seditious. The previous question, that that question should not be put, was carried by 214 to 109. This day the election of Woodstock was declared void by 194 to 140. The Queen is in a manner recovered of the St. Anthony's fire that had seized her in the leg.

NEWS LETTER.

1713-14, March 16. London—Letters from the Hague advise that the States General discover great uneasiness at the conditions of peace signed at Radstadt between the Emperor and France, and particularly

that the Emperor is left to treat with them in his own name about his possession of the Netherlands, which he is to have in propriety as his inheritance, and the king of France not to concern himself therein, so that they fear the Emperor will not think himself obliged to stand to the treaty of barrier or give the possession of the frontier places to the Dutch as they are now. If this be so, the Dutch may come to want her Majesty's assistance for maintaining the barrier, and may find it convenient to use her better than they have done.

They are surprised to find that the treaty of Radstadt is not a treaty of preliminaries as was expected, but a full and complete treaty of peace in all its forms, and the two generals who were at first Plenipotentiaries and treated as such only, assumed the title of ambassadors at their last meeting, and producing their credentials to each other, they signed the peace as Ambassadors. People are very angry in Holland that the Emperor has transacted this affair without the least participation of the States, or so much as notifying it to them by his Ambassadors at the Hague, nor have the articles since their being signed been communicated to them at all, however they flatter themselves that the Government of the Spanish Netherlands being entirely in the hands of the English and the Dutch, her Majesty's forces possessing all the lower parts of Flanders as Ghent, Bruges, Newport and all the country round them, and the Dutch having possession of all the frontier towns, in which they have strong garrisons such as Luxemberg, Namur, Charleroy, Mons, Tournay, Aeth, Oudenard, Ypres, and Ostend, as also the citadel of Liége and the castle of Huy, it will not be found so easy for the Emperor to come into them by force as some imagine.

Our people here are wondrous busy making such additions to the articles of peace as they find for their turn, in order to create new jealousies among the people, particularly that the King of France is to send 50,000 men into the Netherlands to force the Dutch to give up their barrier to the Emperor, implying thereby that France and the Emperor are now to join their forces to fall upon the Dutch, as was published last Saturday in the Whiggish papers in this city.

The published prints are all full of such articles as their authors are pleased to call the articles of peace signed at Radstadt, but as we are assured they are not true copies, and that no authentic draft of the said articles has been given out to any one, and also that there are several absurdities and inconsistent things in them, for these reasons we have not published anything about it.

The two French Commissioners, Messieurs Annison and Fenelon, having had divers conferences with her Majesty's Commissioners of the treaty of commerce, it seems they appear very loth to have the duties on our manufactures taken off in France, and are as willing to have the treaty break off as our people are. But some think it strange we should be against it and they too, and that something more must be in that affair than most people here are aware of. However this is supposed to be the occasion why the bill of commerce has not been moved in the House of Commons, and people talk now as if there would nothing be done in it this sessions.

Yesterday the House of Peers met and heard their address read for the Proclamation mentioned in our last, approved of the same, and adjourned to Wednesday.

We are surprised to hear that after Mr. Steele had begged time till Thursday to answer the charge brought against him in the House,

he made a long speech yesterday relating to his case, and so has engaged in his defence before the time. He moved that an address should be made to the Queen to order all the papers to be laid before the House which related to the demolishing of Dunkirk, but it was rejected by a great majority. He alleged it would explain what he had written on that affair, but was told it was preposterous to desire the Queen to explain his pamphlets, and that it did not yet appear which were his and which not, but when he had owned the writing of them next Thursday it would be time enough to consider of their explanation. General Stanhope came into the House that very morning, having been chosen at Wendover. The treaty of commerce with Spain is ordered to be printed. This day the election of Woodstock was heard at the bar of the House, where we hear General Cadogan has lost it by a great majority.

[Lord Chancellor Harcourt to the Earl of Oxford.]

1713-14, March 17—The concern I am under is inexpressible, and I beg you to believe that my share in the misfortunes which are hovering over our heads is the least matter which afflicts me. I have foreseen a storm gathering for some time. I have greedily catched at many opportunities to have laid my thoughts before you. It is most certain everything may be set right if your Lordship pleases, the Queen's service carried on, her honour maintained, your character preserved in all its dignity, and your friends and faithful servants at least protected. Should your Lordship give way to your resentment, consider how the Queen will be affected by it, what confusion in every part of the public service must inevitably follow, the meanest of your enemies will triumph, and it will be but a poor satisfaction to you when all authority is put into the hands of violent men, and all your friends are scattered and contemned, that the mischief is owing to some few persons who will certainly bear their part in the calamity. Could I pretend to have ever merited anything from you, all I would ask from you is, that you would not come to any resolution till I have an opportunity of speaking fully to you, which I will do to yourself alone, when you will permit me, and satisfy you that I am just as much at your command now as on the 11th Feb. 1707[-8].

News Letter.

1713-14, March 18—Yesterday the House of Commons went into a committee upon the supply, and came to resolutions which are to be reported this day. The said resolutions were: Resolved that ten thousand men be allowed for the sea service for the year 1714, beginning from the 1st of January, 1713[-14]. Resolved that 4*l.* per man a month be allowed for maintaining the said ten thousand men for thirteen months, including the ordnance for the sea service. The House ordered a new writ to be issued out for the election of Members of Parliament for Woodstock. Upon a discussion, yeas, one hundred and thirty-one; noes, one hundred and five.

The same day the Lords agreed to three addresses to be presented to her Majesty, one relating to the Catalans, another to desire her Majesty to lay before their Lordships all the papers relating to the peace, and commerce with Spain, and the other relating to her letter to the Duke of Lorraine about the Pretender and the Duke's answer.

Ordered a bill to be brought in for the further security of the succession, and to prevent foreign forces coming over hither without leave.

The tradesmen that served her Majesty are all paid to Midsummer last, one third part in tin tallies without interest, but will be paid in about two years, and the other two thirds in ready money.

Frederick Herne, Esquire, Member of Parliament for Clifton Dartmouth, &c., in Devon, and one of the Commissioners appointed for settling the commerce between us and France, is dead.

At the assizes at East Grinstead, William Nelson, Esquire, of the Middle Temple, who wrote a book called "The Office of a Justice of Peace," and a man of very good business, was convicted of perjury and forgery.

There is to be a great reform in the Army, and persons put in that are for the interest of her Majesty and Ministry.

Sir Stephen Fox is chosen member for New Sarum.

This day the Commons went on the affair of Mr. Steele. He answered the charge laid to him, paragraph by paragraph.

J. D'Alais to [Thomas Harley] at Amsterdam.

1714, March [19-]30, N.S. Hanover—I have given the enclosures in your letter to Lord Morpeth, who says he will leave for Geneva on Thursday, with Mr. Chardin, son of the famous traveller. There remain here Mr. Howard, the Earl of Suffolk's brother, and his wife, the sister of Lord Hobart, and Mr. Burgess, son of the Presbyterian minister; also Messrs. Duncombe, Longueville, and Murray. The Duke of Wolfenbüttel died last Tuesday at Brunswick, aged more than eighty-one. His death has been notified to this Court, which will go into mourning to-morrow. I am expecting six dozen of Pontack from Hamburgh at the end of next week. All will be ready to receive you at the "maison de Dom," and your arrival is expected with impatience. *French.*

News Letter.

1713-14, March 20. London—Letters from France advise that the King has named three Ambassadors to the Congress, which is to be held at Baden, in Switzerland, for the finishing and completing the peace with the Empire. It is now said that the conditions of peace are such that the King will prevent a war in Italy between the Empire and the King of Sicily.

Letters from Port Mahon give terrible accounts of the butcheries and slaughters on both sides in Catalonia. The Barcelonians are not only obstinate in holding out, though without all hopes of relief, but as if they were sure they should never be taken, they act the most cruel and inhuman things, such as none but madmen and desperadoes would be guilty of, particularly they had surrounded two Castallion batteries, and who being obliged to yield, threw down their arms and submitted to mercy, they continued them thus prisoners three days, and then butchered them in cold blood. This on the other hand so exasperated the Spaniards that they have put to death most of their prisoners, and the Duke de Popoli has sworn that if he takes the city by storm he will spare neither man, woman nor child.

They write from Barcelona that they are making preparations there to prevent the effect of the enemy's booms, and that upon the threats of the Duke of Popoli aforesaid, they have sent most of their wives and children away to Majorca and to Naples by sea. They were much encouraged by the supplies of provisions which they have received, and particularly by their taking two large Genoa ships laden with corn and meal out of the enemy's fleet, which also put the whole fleet of transports into a terrible confusion. They are still of opinion that the Spaniards will not be able to besiege the city this season in form, the open country being not yet reduced, and the heats coming on in May they will not be able to lie in the field.

Letters from Sweden write that they are taking very vigorous measures there for preserving the country against the invasion of the Moscovites, and that the whole body of the kingdom will be in arms if the Moscovites pretend to land any troops in Sadaermania, as they threaten to do, their fleet is also fitting out with all expedition.

The treaty of peace between the King of Poland and the French is concluded and signed.

Yesterday morning four carts full [of] prisoners went under a strong guard to Kingston to be tried at the assizes, two of whom are for the murder of the boxman of the Queen's Bench Prison, in the late tumult there, mentioned in our former letter.

The Commons sat so late on Thursday that it was impossible to give an account of the affair of Mr. Steele, which was not finished till twelve o'clock at night.

He made three long discourses in his defence, but pretended to justify what he had written than to extenuate what he alleged about his affronting the person of the Queen; but he was so weak and frivolous as made his own friends ashamed of him. However the House heard him with all possible patience, only that sometimes they were obliged to laugh a little. About eleven o'clock all what his advocates had to say for him being over, the question was put whether what he had written was scandalous, seditious, and rebellious or no, upon which the House divided, yeas, two hundred and five; noes, one hundred and two. That question being carried, the House never divided upon the other question, whether he should be expelled or no, so they showed him out and went home to dinner at midnight.

It was observable that Mr. Steele, foreseeing that he should be expelled, and knowing his own circumstances, took care to go away in time, which if he had not done there were several bailiffs ready to have arrested him, he having several great actions against him for large sums of money, which he would have been liable to, as soon as ever he was expelled, and we are credibly informed that there are no less than eight declarations against him in the Queen's Bench Court, and five in the Common Pleas. We hear he has taken the advice of his friends not to attempt to be chosen again during this sessions. The House of Lords met yesterday pursuant to their late adjournment, and having read some private bills, had a long debate about the state of the Navy, which being ended, and no bills being ready in the House of Commons, their Lordships are adjourned till after the holidays. The Commons are settling the estimate for the year 1714, in order to go upon ways and means.

Last night the Committee of Elections sat upon the double return for Harwich, between Mr. Mildmay and Mr. Heath, and gave it for the former.

W. Bromley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1713-14, March 21—The Earl of Anglesey was with me last night, and his chief business was to be furnished with materials to make good his challenge against the old Ministry, being determined as far as he is able to support you in your administration. He is very earnest that Dean Jephson may not be a bishop; he is a man of a very scandalous, vicious life, and has as little learning as morals. He thinks Archdeacon Hamilton would make the best Bishop of Raphoe, because he has an estate there, and his habits and acquaintance in that diocese would make him serviceable as well as acceptable there. I saw Lord Chancellor last night at St. James's, and he told me the Queen had sent for him. I hope her speaking to him will have a good effect, and that all who are embarked in the same bottom will heartily join in supporting and carrying on our common interests.

Petkum to Thomas Harley, at Amsterdam.

1714, [March 21-] April 1, N.S. Amsterdam—As you offered me when I last saw you at the Hague, the sum of fifteen hundred florins, I believed you would not take it ill of me if, in the present condition of my affairs, on account of the misfortunes of the Duke my master, I prayed you to increase the amount to two thousand florins. I was therefore not a little surprised this morning that you did not even give me the sum which you had offered me yourself; from which I can only conclude that I have offended you by my demand. Such demand is however based upon the large promises which have been made me in England for the last six months, under which I was engaged in a regular correspondence, and the intelligence which I have given well deserves the two thousand florins I ask for. I hope that if you cannot advance me this sum you will give me the fifteen hundred florins at least, as I have immediate need of them; and in return I can perform some important services to the Queen and to your eminent relative. *French.*

Another much shorter letter of Petkum's of the same date, is to the same effect.

Petkum to [Thomas] Harley.

1714, [March 23-] April 2, N.S.—I pray you to state an hour convenient for you to see me, and if I may hope to receive the sum I named yesterday—otherwise it is not necessary that I should trouble you. *French.*

[Lady Masham] to the Lord Treasurer.

1713-14, March 22—I am surprised at your Lordship desiring me to name what I know will be so disagreeable to her Majesty. I did not expect you ever would send me of such a message; you must excuse me, for I never will carry it, and I hope your Lordship will consider better of it both for the Queen's sake and your own.

NEWS LETTER.

[1714, March 26. London.] Friday, 10 a clock—About two hours ago Sir George Newland threw himself out of his window in Salisbury Court, and his brains were dashed out.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, March 27—As I am not conscious to myself of having ever deserved ill at your Lordship's hands, so it is a great satisfaction to me to find that I may please myself with the thoughts of having some share in your friendship. I most sincerely desire to see your Lordship, as long as I live, at the head of the Queen's affairs, and of the Church of England party; to see the administration flourish under your direction, the quiet of the Queen's reign secured, and effectual measures taken to put those of our friends who may outlive the Queen beyond the reach of Whig resentment. These, my Lord, are the only views I have, and the only designs I am engaged in. I am, with the truest and most cordial affection, &c.

WILLIAM BRETON to [THOMAS HARLEY, at Hanover].

1714, [March 28-]April 7, N.S. Berlin—I hope this will have the good fortune to find you safely arrived at Hanover, where Messrs. Duncombe and Longueville have expected you as well as others, with great impatience, you will be so taken up with British affairs for some days, that I shall make my first letter as short as possible, I shall only acquaint you at present that this Court is very much provoked at the demolition of Tonningen, and I wish you may find the Court of Hanover but half as angry; as long as the war with France subsisted, we could not hope for any great assistance from those that gave large contingents, the peace is now made, and I hope the King of Sweden's interests will not be neglected by those that are or should be friends to Great Britain. I may venture to assure you of the good disposition of this Court, of which I should be glad to acquaint you more particularly, but must defer it as well as several other things I have to tell you, unless you happen to have a copy of my cypher. I am in expectation of leave to make you a visit for a few days, if you encourage me a little I will venture to come without, being persuaded it is for her Majesty's service that I should have the pleasure of embracing you as soon as possible.

If Mr. Longueville has not the honour of being known to you, give me leave to recommend him to you for a man of great worth and good understanding, he will divert you with some British news such as we have been tormented with for some months past.

I wait your advice and shall govern myself accordingly.

E[RASMUS] LEWIS to [THOMAS HARLEY].

1713-14, March 29. Whitehall—I return you thanks for the honour of yours of the 27th inst., N.S., from the Hague; by the account you were then pleased to give me of your motions, I may

hope this will find you safely arrived at Hanover. The newspaper you mention shall be regularly forwarded to you for your entertainment, and if anything further that is worthy your notice come to my knowledge, I shall readily lay hold of the opportunity to keep life in our correspondence.

Watkins and Burke have lost their election at the committee, but are not out of hopes that it may be retrieved in the House.

We flatter ourselves that during this short recess our friends are so far reconciled to one another that they will go on cheerfully and unanimously with the public business, which has hitherto proceeded but slowly, the committee of ways and means being not yet opened.

EDWARD HARLEY, Auditor of the Exchequer, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, March 29—This morning I have received two letters from cousin [Thomas] Harley, in which, with the greatest earnestness, he entreats the letters for the Court of Hanover may be sent immediately. Surely he should be hastened thither, especially if there be anything in what I hinted on Saturday, which is an affair of such a delicate nature that it will require the utmost secrecy, especially the name of the person.

Permit me to hint that in the present situation the chief thing to be intended is the obtaining an entire confidence with the Queen by an insidious and punctual attendance, and often expressing a resolution to do or hazard anything for her service.

Frequent meetings with some of the Lords and Commons would be of great service. In order to these it is necessary that you should appropriate more time for the despatch of business, by getting out earlier, and being freed from those who are only the leeches of time. The leak that is sprung cannot be stopped without pumping.

I have no apology for this freedom, but that I am pressed to this intimation by the sincerest of your friends. The indulgence that some very great men have shown in little passions or habits, scarce discerned by themselves till it was too late, has proved very fatal to them.

[THE SAME to THOMAS HARLEY.]

1714, March 30—8 ( ) and 4 ( ) have hitherto gone on smoothly. Great difficulties were expected from 9 ( ), but the spirit exerted by 7 ( ) dashed the attempts. 11 ( ) at a meeting at 5 ( )'s opposed what you see in print, but had no one to support him, so that the address went without opposition.

What happened at —— in October has broken out again much more public. 1 and his countryman have shown very plainly what has been long in agitation. 3 offered to resign if he was not to hold it with honour, which 7 absolutely refused. So that at present things seem to be made up.

NEWS LETTER.

1713-14, March 30—Our private letters from the Hague advise that the States-General were surprised to see the extract of the Earl of

Strafford's commission printed in the public papers in London, and the more because it was desired by the Earl to be kept as a secret, but they were most of all surprised to understand that it was printed by order of the present Ministry. This no doubt is a Dutch calumny, as ill grounded as most that come from that fruitful country, for nobody can suppose that the "Daily Courant" (who first printed that extract) is so well with the present Ministry as to have a communication of that kind, who lay so long under the displeasure of the last Parliament. But besides, they pretend it might come out another way, viz.: by the Earl of Strafford's giving a copy of it to the French Ambassador and the Sicilian Secretary, as if none of the Dutch or their Ministers had ever found the way to get a thing clandestinely inserted in our Whig papers.

The States Ministers at Paris had read at the Marquis de Torcy's the Treaty of Radstadt at large, and transmitted to them copies they obtained of the twelve articles which any ways concerned the Dutch, viz.: from article nineteen to thirty inclusive. Their said High Mightinesses are not much displeased with them, but they write that the Netherlands are to be delivered up to the Emperor soon after the exchange of the ratifications. The Earl of Strafford is very busy with the States Deputies and with the Ministers of France and Spain, and it is said is endeavouring to get promises from the French King that no alteration shall be made by his consent in the Dutch barrier.

Thomas Spence, Esquire, is made Comptroller of the Stamp Office in the room of William Ashurst, Esquire.

Yesterday morning were disembarked at the Red House two regiments of horse and one of dragoons, which came from Ostend.

Francis Faulks, Esquire, is chosen member of Parliament for Knaresborough, in the room of Christopher Stockdale, Esquire, deceased.

John Sharpe, Esquire, son to the late Archbishop of York, being made one of the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, is re-elected member of Parliament for Ripon.

[Lady Orkney to the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, April 1—If your Lordship had continued under the dissatisfaction you must have been in, to have been represented contrary to your desire, where you are most concerned to please, I intended to have given you the trouble of letting you know my thoughts upon that subject; but since I am to believe all that matter is right, I shall say no more, but give your Lordship thanks for the favour of your letter, and assure you that I believe my Lord Orkney will accept with duty and respect whatever her Majesty thinks fit to give, and till I know it must be other ways, I will conclude it will be given him, with such mark of her Majesty's favour as may appear to the world that 'tis given him, not only to keep out some of his countrymen who have no pretensions to it, but that he is to be rewarded for having discharged every command he has had with honour and zeal. I will propose his having the same commission as my Lord Rivers had, to command in Great Britain under the Duke of Ormond in his absence, not with equal profit, but some, or at least Commander-in-chief in Scotland as the Duke of Argyll was.

The Earl of Dartmouth to the Lord Treasurer.

1714, April 1—I hope you will excuse this way of troubling you, it being difficult for me to find any other, and I cannot help taking

notice of any diminution in that favour and protection you have been pleased to honour me with, especially at a time when there seems to be a distinction between those that are really your servants and others, and not being in the least conscious of anything done by me, take for granted it must proceed from other people's uneasiness at my being in the Queen's service, or a desire to have somebody else in my place that may be of more use to them. Therefore I beg your Lordship will dispose of me as shall be most to your convenience, and be assured that you will always find me as entirely your servant out of office as in, and the utmost I expect or desire is the continuation of your friendship.

News Letter.

1714, April 1. London—By letters from Vienna, we find the Imperial Court is very much alarmed at the preparations of the Turks, and begins to apprehend new troubles on that side, especially since the Turks at Choczin have been reinforced with 3,000 men, and pretend to repair the fortifications of Trinity fort, which faces Camineck, and which was demolished and never to be repaired by the treaty of Carlowitz. But that which most of all contributes to make them jealous of these preparations is the conduct of the King of Sweden, who, after he had free liberty given him by the Turks to come away, and was said to be actually gone incognito, is returned, having only ridden privately to an interview with the Khan of Tartary. Secondly, that at a time when his own dominions are in the utmost hazard of being overrun by the Danes and Moscovites, he has absolutely forbidden them to enter into any treaty of peace, and thirdly, that he has rejected the mediation of the Emperor, and that with some kind of contempt. All of which it is thougnt would never be done if that king had not some assurances of assistance, and something in view which the world yet knows very little of.

Letters from Poland continue to say that it is daily expected that the discontents of the Polish nobility and gentry will break out into a flame, and that if the least encouragement from the King of Sweden can be given them there will be a general revolt. The King of Poland is not insensible of it, and therefore it is thought declines returning to Warsaw, where he does not think himself safe, but in the meantime he is very careful by means of the Crown General to assure the Polish army to himself, and on the other hand is strengthening and increasing his Saxon forces, and stopped 12,000 Moscovites who were marching away; so that he thinks his strength sufficient to reduce the nobility if they make any attempt, and it is said if he masters them he will make proposals to them to make the kingdom hereditary, with such privileges and liberties to the people as shall be greater than those they now enjoy.

They write from the Hague that the treaty of peace between Spain and Portugal is in a fair way of being adjusted, the new plan of peace having been settled by the Ministers on both sides as it was adjusted in England and recommended to her Britannic Majesty. But the treaty between Spain and the States General is again at a stand for some reasons not yet made public, in which it is said that as the Spaniards hung back before so the Dutch decline bringing it

to any conclusion now till they see what measures the Emperor shall think fit to take with them about the possession of Flanders and the liberty of the Barrier.

The letters from Flanders confirm the accounts which were given of the French troops marching to Flanders, and the Commissaries storing the magazines of the frontier towns. But they say it is no more than is usual for the subsisting of garrisons and the putting them in a posture not to be surprised, the Dutch having ordered their garrisons to be augmented, and the Imperialists having ordered 24,000 men to march from Germany to the Netherlands between whom and the Dutch there may happen some disputes, but the French Ambassador at the Hague has declared to the Pensioner Heinsius that his master will not concern himself in it one way or other.

Yesterday the Parliament met pursuant to their last adjournment. The House of Lords read several private bills, and took into consideration the affairs of the Navy, and several papers being brought in which were ordered to be laid before the House they were read, and the further consideration thereof referred to a committee, and then the House adjourned till Friday.

The Town Clerk of Colchester having been taken into custody, the House was moved for his discharge, but we hear that several foul practices of his in that borough having been since discovered, his discharge was deferred till that matter be further examined.

We hear that the 4th troop of Horse Guards, called the Scots troop, is given to the Earl of Dundonald, so that the Whigs have found that notwithstanding their reports that the Queen durst not displace the Duke of Ar[gy]ll, yet her Majesty has ventured to do it at last. Colonel Egerton also and Colonel Sidney are out of commission in the Foot Guards.

Yesterday the Commons heard the merits of the election for Ipswich, between Wm. Thompson and Wm. Churchill, Esquires, sitting members, and Mr. Serjt. Richardson and Orlando Bridgeman, Esquires, petitioners, and carried this day for the latter without any division. The troops from Flanders are arrived.

The Earl of Strafford to [Thomas] Harley.

1714, April [3-]14, N.S. Hague—Though I have nothing new to send you from hence, yet I could not let this second messenger go to you without sending my wishes for your good journey and success in your negotiation.

The Courts of France and Spain are at some variance on account of finishing the peace of the latter with the States, who address themselves to the French King to get them over the difficulty of the Princess des Ursins, who having writ to his grandson to desist, the grandson has answered his honour is too far engaged and that he cannot. Upon which the King of France has writ again to the King of Spain that he shall desist or else he will send him no succours against Barcelona; so the States expect in four or five days the King of Spain's answer, which they imagine will be to comply with what the King his grandfather desires of him, but the Spanish Ministers fancy other ways, and say their Court have the independence so much at heart, that they will be glad of this opportunity to lay hold on and assert it.

Monsieur Buys writes word of much greatness there is between him and the French King, whom he finds very reasonable; 'tis certain Mons. Torcy treats the Dutch Ambassadors with great distinction, and the Dutch seem resolved to make their court in every thing they can to France.

I hope we make the advantage we ought of their peace not being concluded with Spain, in which these people have been certainly in the wrong, and I believe France has played them some tricks in the matter, as they will all the world that trusts them. Pray make my compliments most particularly to the Electress.

Thomas Corbett to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, April [5-]14, N.S. Amsterdam—I will not pretend to enter into any description of a country so well known as this, and shall only say that the stay I have made in it has been very agreeable. The Hague, by the concourse of a great many foreign Ministers in a little room, and the residence of the best families of the country, being a place of the most gaiety and pleasure I have ever met with. It was a satisfaction to me to have another sight of Utrecht, a place I had spent so much time in while the Congress lasted, which, though a desert to what it was then, I could not behold without a veneration, it having been the scene where Europe, by the influence of your Lordship's counsels, has been brought to rest.

But whoever would judge rightly of the genius of the Dutch must repair hither, where he will see them in their native colours, Amsterdam resembling a great hive of bees enriching their cells from all parts of nature, and intent on nothing but their industry and profit. Here one sees not any of the refinements of the Hague, but a certain Platonic equality reigns throughout the whole town, no man troubling his head about rank or precedence, but all in their several ways in search of wealth and riches.

Mr. Harley sets out from hence to-morrow in his way to Hanover.

News Letter.

1714, April 6—Further from Dantzic of the first of April, O.S. They write that they can give no account when they will begin to demolish the citadel. It is thought it will not be done till the jetties are entirely down. That fourteen French battalions are expected there to come to cut a new canal from old fort Mardike into the canal of Bergh on the river Ada, the French alleging that if the sluices of the canal of Bergh and the sluices of the head of St. Omer are broken down before there be a new canal, the water will drown the country six leagues round.

There assisted at the consecration of the Bishop of Chester, the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of Carlisle, Hereford, and St. David's, and introduced into the House of Peers by the Archbishop of York, and at the consecration of the Bishop of Bristol, the Bishops of London, Winchester, Bath and Wells, Lichfield and Coventry, and introduced into the House of Peers by the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

It is said that Mr. Freeman, brother to Mr. Freeman, the member of Parliament, will be made a Commissioner of the Stamp Office, in the room of Mr. Martin.

This day the young Lady Dowager Peters set out for Flanders.

It is said there is a treaty of marriage on foot between the Earl of Dundonald and the Duke of Ormond's daughter.

Yesterday the House in a Committee of Supply, resolved that four hundred and ninety-eight thousand and eighty-five pounds ten shillings be granted to her Majesty for the dividend of the South Sea Company for 1714; that the number of men to be allowed for guards and garrisons in Great Britain and for Jersey and Guernsey for 1714 be eight thousand two hundred and thirty-two men, commission and non-commission officers, and the two independent companies, North Britain included.

Sir George Beaumont is made a Commissioner of the Admiralty.

Yesterday the Lords resolved that an humble address be presented to her Majesty that she would be pleased to issue out a proclamation with a suitable reward for taking the Pretender, dead or alive, if he comes to Great Britain or Ireland, and that she would be pleased still to use her endeavours that the Duke of Lorraine should send him out of his dominions, &c., and a question was put whether the succession in the House of Hanover was in danger from her Majesty's administration. It was carried in the negative by fourteen.

Dr. W. Ayerst to [John Drummond, at Utrecht].

1714, April [7-]18, N.S. The Hague—Lord Strafford orders me to write to you to make what haste you can hither, for he wants to consult you about the points of trade to be insisted on in the Convention to be made with the Emperor in relation to the Low Countries, that affair being now in agitation. I hear Mr. St. John, tired with waiting for a wind, is come this morning to Rotterdam, and I believe will be at our assembly to-night, if he be not come already. We have here an odd story about the Duke d'Ossuna's servant that was hanged in his house. You being upon the place will perhaps be able to give us a true account of that matter.

At the back of this letter is a note from J. Drummond to Thomas Harley at Hanover, dated April 20, *stating that he is just going to the Hague in obedience thereto, &c.*

John [Robinson], Bishop of London, to the Lord Treasurer.

1714, April 8. Somerset House—It having been usual for the Crown to grant to ambassadors who have done their duty abroad, a discharge from the obligation of returning the Plate which they received from the Jewel Office, I humbly hope the great charges I was at in my negociation, and likewise since my return, may entitle me to her Majesty's favour, so as to be allowed the Plate which was delivered me upon my going to Utrecht. To which end I beg your Lordship to lay this my most humble request before her Majesty, that she will be graciously pleased to grant a Privy Seal to discharge me from returning the said Plate.

News Letter.

1714, April 8. London—Letters from France bring repeated accounts that the French King is laying down his arms most effectually on every side, that he has ordered a thorough reform of his troops,

being resolved to reduce his expenses as low as possible, and it is even said he is so well satisfied that the present peace will be durable and lasting that he resolves to keep fewer forces on foot than he has ever had in the profoundest peace since he was out of his minority. Also he has concluded a treaty of Commerce with the Czar of Moscovy, and, contrary to all expectation, his Majesty exhorts the King of Sweden to hearken to peace, and send his Ministers to the Congress at Brunswick.

By letters from Dunkirk, we have an account that the razing of the fortifications continues, and that the sluices are entirely ruined, the basin laid open, and the wharf of it thrown down, that the famous piers that run out into the sea a prodigious length, and which form the haven, are now being pulled down, and the whole work it is supposed will be finished in about six weeks' time, after which we have no more to do about it, but to repent of the weakest step that ever this nation took.

They write from the Hague that the Emperor's Minister talks now of entering into a new treaty of barrier with the States General, which occasions divers speculations; but the Dutch answer they have already a treaty of barrier with the French, of which the British Court is also guarantee, and that they cannot admit any alterations therein but with the participation of their said allies, which answer, it is said, the Imperial Envoy declared would not be satisfactory, but that he would write thereof to his principal and return an answer.

We hear the Portugal Ambassador, Don Louis Alcumna, is expected here from Holland with the treaty between the Kings of Spain and Portugal, which her Majesty is to regulate as arbitress between the nations.

Our merchants are in great pain for the Barbados fleet, consisting of eight ships, which we hear have met with a very dreadful storm, and not one of them is heard of, but a ship from Nevis is arrived, having lost all her masts, and was separated from the said fleet in the said storm.

We hear that Sir John Cass, one of our aldermen and city members, is gone to the hot spring at Bristol to drink the waters of Saint Vincent's rock for the diabetes.

There is an account of two hundred and eighty thousand guineas coined at the Tower within these six weeks, much of it being from the great quantity of French and Portugal gold, which has been lately brought over.

We hear from Rochester that one Place, the owler exporter of wool, was tried for the same at the Assizes, as also for murder for killing the Custom House officer, who opposed him. He was cleared of the murder, but was fined three hundred and fifty pounds for the wool, and to give one thousand pounds security for his behaviour for seven years. This is the same man who they say wore wool in his hat at the late election of knights for the shire of Kent.

Yesterday the Common Council of the City met upon the affair of *mandamus* for swearing in the two members for Cheap Ward, and no answer being given by the members against whom the writ was brought, it was so manifest a contempt of her Majesty's authority that it was thought reasonable to resent it, and the far greater part of the Court were resolved to declare their opinions, but after very long debates, the Whigs seeing no other remedy, Sir William Ashurst whispered the Lord Mayor, and his Lordship immediately took up the

sword, and refusing to put the question, left the Court, the members crying out justice, liberty, English privileges, and the like, but all to no purpose, no justice being to be obtained.

By a French mail just come in, we have it that the King of Portugal had consented to the demands of the King of Spain, and dispatched a courier to his Minister at Utrecht to conclude the treaty of peace.

On Sunday next the Court goes into mourning for the Queen Dowager of Denmark.

Last night the Committee of Elections sat upon St. Alban's election between John Gape, esquire, petitioner, and William Hale, esquire, sitting member, and upon a division, gave it for the former, ninety against eighty.

PETKUM to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, April [9-]20, N.S. The Hague—The Duke of Marlborough and other Whigs cause it to be insinuated to the State here that the firm intention of her Majesty is to introduce the Pretender into England, and that in a very short time. They assert the plan is as follows:—

The King of France will encamp in the Low Countries an army of 60,000 men; an army of 10,000 men will be given to the Pretender, who will bear the name of Irishmen, and will be landed in Scotland, where there is a strong party for him, without counting the Highlanders. Whilst the Pretender is preparing to make his descent on Scotland, the French army being also in the Low Countries, M. de Chateauneuf, the French ambassador, will demand a conference, in which he will declare that events are about to happen in England, with which the neighbouring powers ought not to meddle, and that the King, his master, begs their High Mightinesses to remain neutral like himself; but if they wish to take part in it he will be obliged to do so also, in virtue of the treaties he has entered into, and to declare himself their enemy in spite of the desire he has to live with them in good friendship and harmony. The Pretender having landed without any opposition, the Queen will appear on her throne and will declare to the two Chambers that being convinced in her heart that the Pretender is her brother, and consequently the heir presumptive to the Crown; that on account of her bodily infirmity she can no longer support alone the burden of the two Crowns, she is resolved to associate with him in the Government, praying therefore the Parliament to agree to this, and to throw out any bills opposed to it.

I can assure you this finds much credit here, and secret measures are being taken to support the House of Hanover. It is only feared that the Emperor is in accord with France on this subject. The Whigs make great promises here to assist the said House with their means and their blood.

It is told me confidently that the Pretender's party flatters itself with getting Lord Bolingbroke into its interests, and he would work to ruin your Excellency in the mind of the Queen; indeed, it is said that he has already succeeded in doing that. If I had a cipher, I could inform you from time to time of very important matters. In the meantime I beg you to be on your guard against the people who approach you. *French.*

E[RASMUS] LEWIS to [THOMAS HARLEY,] at Hanover.

1714, April 9. Whitehall—Some people have so strongly reported that you are recalled by a sign manual that we who serve in the office from whence all orders of that kind should issue, are not sure but it may be true. I leave you to judge from this what sort of a correspondence we hold with your neighbours in the Cockpit, but such is our misfortune that we are disjointed to a degree that nothing could preserve the appearances of our being together, if our enemies were wise enough to sit still and see us tear one another to pieces, but happily they have made a push at us, and we were together yesterday, whether we shall ever be so again I know not.

The Lords have addressed the Queen that she would issue a proclamation promising a reward for the Pretender's head, when she thinks fit. I am told she is more uneasy at those words than any other for she has no inclination to do it, and yet if she does not, it will be construed by some to proceed from a favourable disposition towards him.

LORD MIDDLETON to [LORD HARLEY].

1714, April 9—There is a bill brought into the House of Commons for making the river Trent navigable to Burton in Staffordshire, which as it is drawn will very much affect the town of Nottingham and the whole county, in both which your Lordship having so great an interest, I hope you will be pleased to assist us either in throwing the bill out or getting it so amended as it may not be of so much prejudice to us. A great many petitions are coming from all parts against it.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, April 10. London—Letters from France bring an account that the devotions of the Easter week being over, the Court was removing to Marly, where the King designs to stay four or five weeks. They add that by letters from Spain they have advice that the siege of Barcelona was put off in expectation that the citizens would at last submit and not suffer things to come to the last extremity, which would be their inevitable ruin. It is said the King of Spain has given a favourable answer to the letter which the people of Barcelona sent out of the city to the Duke of Popoli directed to the King, and that his Majesty has offered them his general pardon, and such privileges as the most favoured of his subjects do enjoy, and there is great hope they will be persuaded to accept those offers.

We are assured by letters from Lisbon that the last plan of peace, which by the interposition of the British Court was offered by the Spanish Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht to those of Portugal, has been signed and accepted by his Portuguese Majesty, and that the same is transmitted to the Count de Taronca, Plenipotentiary of Portugal, that it may be exchanged with the like treaty on the part of Spain, so that we hope that difficult affair which so many hoped for mischief from, is brought at length to a conclusion.

Letters from Copenhagen confirm the defeat of the Swedes in Bothnia on the confines of Lapland, by a body of 12,000 Moscovites, with these particulars, that the Swedish foot being 3,800 men were surrounded by the enemy, and most of them cut in pieces, but that

they made such a desperate defence, and sold their lives so dear that the Moscovite foot are quite ruined, above 7,000 of them being killed, and had not the horse come in to their aid, it is believed the Swedes had defeated them. However, upon this defeat the Moscovites remain masters of the country. These letters add that the King of Denmark is making great preparations for another descent upon Schonen.

Letters from the Hague advise that the States General have in their answer to my Lord Strafford's memorial formerly mentioned, absolutely declined engaging with her Majesty in the guarantee for the King of Sicily, but they are willing to use all their good offices with the Emperor to prevent a rupture, which it is supposed will not signify much. It seems this resolution is received from all the provinces separately, the proposal of my Lord Strafford having been sent to every province for their resolution.

Letters from Turin give an account that the King of Sicily has opened the session of the assembly of estates or parliament of that kingdom at Palermo, that his Majesty had by his Chancellor demanded a free gift of 700,000 crowns from them in consideration of the extraordinary expenses of his voyage, public entry, coronation, &c.; and in consideration of several ancient taxes which his Majesty had taken away, and that the same was readily granted by the States, together with a donation or present to their new Queen of 50,000 pistoles. They add that their preparations of war go on with great vigour, both in Piedmont and in the Milanese, and also at Naples.

Yesterday a very unhappy and no less strange passage happened at Tottenham. A bargeman walking on the bank of the river saw a man standing in the water breast high or thereabouts, having his clothes on, and asking him what he did there, the man answered 'what's that to you?' So the bargeman went on and left him. About two hours after, coming back, he found him in the same place, and observing him to look very ill, and to give no answer though he spoke to him again, he called some people, and went down and pulled him out, though with some difficulty, he having tied himself by a rope about his middle to a stump of a tree in the river. As soon as they took him out of the water he died, without speaking a word, nor can it be discovered who he is, he had good clothes on, money in his pocket and a gold ring on his finger.

Yesterday the Lords were taken up in reading and approving the addresses formerly mentioned, and are to present the same on Monday. Some debates were in the House about the state of the nation, but we don't hear that any resolution was passed thereon. Their Lordships are adjourned till Monday. We hear that the House of Commons resolves to proceed vigorously on the supply, that the dispatch of the public affairs may give life to the credit which has been artfully run down of late, on pretence of differences which were to happen in parliament, which, God be thanked, nobody knows anything of but in their idle report.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, April 13—They write from Plymouth of the second instant that the day before one Nicholas, late a lieutenant in General Seymour's regiment, stood in the pillory there, according to the sentence pronounced against him the last Assizes at Exeter. It being a Whiggish town, it is to be noted that not one rotten egg was offered to be thrown at him.

Yesterday the House went into a Committee upon the supply, and came to the following resolutions, viz., that a bill be brought in for compounding with Robert Wise and his sureties for such debts as he owes to her Majesty for customs on tobacco; as also a bill for the relief of the tobacco merchants, also a bill for the relief of the wine merchants.

On Sunday the fifteenth instant, new style, the Imperial Minister at the Hague caused "Te Deum" to be sung in his chapel in the garden, for the peace with France. In the evening he made illuminations and bonfires before his house, and let off some fine fireworks, made by one of his own domestics, who is very ingenious in that way. The next day the French Ambassador gave him a splendid entertainment, which civility was returned on Tuesday by the Baron de Heems. The Baron de Snell, Ambassador of Denmark, is gone to see the Danish forces quit the territories of the States General, in order to march home.

Last night the Committee of Elections sat upon that for Buckingham. Mr. Chapman and Doctor Radcliffe the sitting members, and the petitioners Sir R. Temple and Sir Edmund Denton, and carried for the first. Yeas, one hundred and thirty-two; Noes, one hundred and one.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, April 13. London—Letters from France give an account that all things are preparing for the Congress at Baden in Switzerland, where the general treaty of peace is to be settled with all the Princes of the Empire. Prince Eugene of Savoy is named by the Emperor, and the Marshal Villars by France to be the two first Plenipotentiary Ministers. The King of France has named Monsieur de Luc, now Ambassador in Switzerland, to be another, because of his long experience in the affairs of the Empire, and it is not doubted but the treaty will be amicably finished within the two months prefixed.

They write from Augsburg in Germany, that the deputies of the General Diet of the Empire are employed in adjusting the several pretensions of the Princes of the Empire to be proposed at the General Treaty of peace, and that at the importunity of the Protestant Deputies the said Diet will be removed to Ratisbon, where it was always held, the plague being entirely ceased in that city.

The letters from Geneva confirm the news formerly mentioned from Switzerland that the peace of the cantons is entirely settled by the treaty of the Abbot of St. Gall being finished, adding that the French Ambassador has obliged the said Abbot to ratify the said treaty without the formalities he pretended to, and without the delay of two months, which he demanded so that the tranquillity of that part of the (world will be?) fixed. We wish it were so also in Italy, from whence they write that the Imperialists begin to be very formidable to the Princes and States of Italy, and there is a discourse of a new league or alliance between several of the said Princes and States and the King of Sicily for their mutual defence and to preserve the liberties of Italy.

Letters from Holland confirm that the Emperor has answered the States General that he is ready to enter into a treaty with them for settling their barrier in an amicable and reasonable manner so as to take away all grounds of jealousy and uneasiness, either from them or their allies.

On Wednesday last the sessions began at the Old Bailey, and on Saturday nine persons received sentence of death. The three drummers were tried and acquitted. Mr. Plunkett, who killed Mr. Moore of the Six Clerks' Office, was also tried, and brought in guilty of manslaughter.

The Bank held a general court on Thursday for the choice of their Directors, when also the Governor and Deputy-Governor were continued for another year.

We are assured that in the debates on Friday last in the House of Lords upon the payment of money to the Highland Clans, their Lordships were so well satisfied that the money paid that way was well bestowed that they agreed the same was for the service and advantage of the nation.

Yesterday the House of Lords presented their address to the Queen against the Pretender, and were received very graciously, her Majesty telling them that a Proclamation should be issued as they desired. Also we hear that their other addresses were presented in the usual form.

The House of Commons have been very busy upon the several estimates of debts and of the service of the year ensuing, for which a supply is demanded, and it is hoped they will go upon ways and means for raising the money already voted in a few days, and we hear that a new lottery is contrived for two millions after the manner of the Dutch lottery, by which five hundred thousand pounds will be clear to the Government without entailing any debt upon the nation.

Sunday last Mr. Hatsell, one of the Barons of the Exchequer in King William's reign, died, being near eighty years of age; as did yesterday Councillor How, one of the greatest pleaders in the Court of Chancery, and son of the famous Mr. How, late a dissenting preacher in London.

Last night the Committee of Elections gave that for Buckingham for Doctor Radcliffe and Thomas Chapman, Esquire, sitting members, against Sir Richard Temple and Sir Edmund Denton, Baronet, petitioners.

We hear the Lords divided whether to address her Majesty or not for her most gracious answer to their address, and carried it in the affirmative by six voices.

BARON SCHUTZ to LORD HARCOURT, Lord Chancellor.

1714, April 13-24. London—I hope your Lordship will be pleased to send me an answer concerning what I had the honour to entertain you with yesterday, that I may this evening acquaint the Princess Sophia with the same by my letters. *Copy, on the same sheet of paper as the letter which follows.*

LORD HARCOURT, Lord Chancellor, to BARON SCHUTZ.

1714, April 13—When you came to me yesterday and told me that by order of the Princess Sophia, you demanded a writ of summons for the Duke of Cambridge, I let you know that I thought it my duty to acquaint her Majesty therewith.

I have accordingly laid this matter before the Queen, who was pleased to say that not having received the least intimation of this demand from you, or in any other manner whatsoever from the Court

of Hanover, she could hardly persuade herself that you acted by direction from thence, that she therefore did not think fit to give any other answer than this, that I should do what the law required.

The writ for the Duke of Cambridge was sealed, of course, when the writs of summons to all the other peers were sealed, and lies ready to be delivered to you whenever you call for it. *Copy.*

[The Earl of Oxford] to Thomas Harley, at Hanover.

1714, April 13-24—I wrote to you by Dagley, the messenger who, I hear, got off April 1st. I wrote another by the next post, I now send a messenger express with this on a very extraordinary occasion. I have long suspected that the arts of some men who are restless for power would draw Mr. Schutz into some inconveniences; you know his conduct here before he would take his character; this some treated as weakness; others suspected he came to treat with somebody else besides her Majesty and her servants. I took all the care to distinguish him and offered to discourse him to prevent his running into mistakes. Some very zealous for the Protestant succession have greatly complained at his conduct as what would in time reflect upon the House of Hanover. He ran about to solicit Lords about things he did not nor could not understand, and made lists of the Lords, and went to return them thanks. This you know is always complained against, if any of the Sovereign's servants at any time attempt this. But all this is only to yourself.

April 14—This morning I received by Dagley your letter of April 6, for which I thank you, and I hope you had a safe journey to and a good reception at Hanover. Though the Earl of Strafford be against the very sending a Minister to the Congress at Baden, yet I think it absolutely necessary. I hope to let you know more of that by the next post.

I come now to a matter of an extraordinary nature, and that you may have everything in a clear light, I send you the enclosed papers, viz., No. 1, Lord Chancellor's account of what passed between him and Mr. Schutz. No. 2, Mr. Schutz's letter to Lord Chancellor. No. 3, Lord Chancellor's letter to Mr. Schutz. I find Kreienberg laughs at Schutz's conduct. Now 124 gives out that 55 is coming now immediately to Holland, and so to 138. I must confess this is a wild experiment, and it is to send for 55 to do their business, and to enter into their heats to his own prejudice. They make a noise about the few troops we have, that some alterations are made therein. The whole is this, Lord Portmore has given six thousand pounds to Lord Stair (who wanted money) for his regiment. 126 has long been you know about a year desiring leave to sell, though he did not buy, and has sold for ten thousand pounds. The other two, viz., Sidney and Egerton, who have companies in the Guards, who did not buy, are suffered to sell, the occasion is said to be some particular disrespects to the General. But these complaints will provoke the Queen to make more change, no one is put in but who is undoubtedly zealous for the House of Hanover.

As to the answer about the address I send you the Houses' unanimous thanks. But to return to this extraordinary affair about demanding the writ (which is delivered him), either he has orders for making such a step or he has none. If he has no orders I think he is much to blame, but if he has orders, then he ought to have applied

to the Secretary either to have laid it before the Queen, or to have demanded an audience of her Majesty. But the Queen looks upon this as not only a great and presumptuous neglect, but further it has this aggravation, the Queen says (to use her own words in council) that it is to insinuate to all her subjects that though she has often declared to her people the friendship she has for the House of Hanover, yet they will not accept it; further, the neglecting to ask of the Queen the writ was to proclaim to the world they slighted her authority or suspected her Majesty's justice, that she would deny what the law allows, and the world will interpret this a breach.

I am thus long because I never saw her Majesty so much moved in my life. She looked upon it as that she is treated with scorn and contempt, and she will not believe that he could have any orders for it, but must be imposed upon by the advice of some angry people here. To tell you plainly I believe her Majesty will order by the next post a formal state of this matter to be sent to his Electoral Highness by way of complaint, but I thought it best to let you have the earliest notice of this. I am afraid Mr. Schutz will never be able to do that Serene House any service. A great number of Lords and Commons look upon him that he has put them down in his black list, and this in time will make them become desperate, and now he has affronted the Queen by following the dictates of rash, angry people, who would only have the Protestant successor to revenge their quarrels, and do their business and not his own. I must say that the Queen was in the best disposition in the world towards that House; I should be sorry that this should give it any ruffle. The least advances towards the Queen would meet with the highest returns of friendship from her Majesty. That I may avoid repetition, I send you enclosed, No. 4, a copy of my letter to Mr. Duvenvorde in answer to one from him (as he says) by the Elector's knowledge.

Let me now return to state the dangers and hazards of an attempt for the Electoral Prince to come over now and upon this foot.

(1) It is crowning the affront the Queen looks upon herself to have received, being publicly proclaimed by this proceeding to be suspected of insincerity in her declarations in favour of that House, and of injustice in being thought she would deny what the law allows, with several other aggravations.

(2) If the Prince comes during the Parliament he must take the oath of allegiance.

(3) He will be obliged to run into the heats and prejudices of party, must submit to their government, who have advanced this rash (*sic*) and must make the rest look upon themselves as enemies.

(4) It will infallibly change the course of arguing and shift the dispute. It will be no more between a Popish Pretender and the Serene House of Hanover, but people will immediately change it into a contest between the present possessor and the future successor. Under this subterfuge any who are inclined to the Pretender can shelter themselves without the odium of owning their principles.

I could add many other reasons which make such an attempt stark madness.

I have thus sincerely opened my heart to you, and out of the warmest zeal for the interest of that Serene House. I beg you will lay this before his Electoral Highness, to whom, with my humblest duty, you may give the utmost assurances mortal man is capable of doing. I will do my utmost to calm things here. It is the mutual interest of

the Queen and the Elector to have a firm friendship, and that the world should know it so; if the world should get it in their heads that a Queen so much beloved is hardly used, God knows what may be the consequence. I verily believe that this may bring forth a great deal of good, and if rightly managed may produce stronger demonstrations of friendship than have yet appeared. I can but repeat again I will do my part with the utmost zeal. Lord Paget is named Envoy, etc., to reside at Hanover. His quality and character must please. As to 158 no attention is to be given. You know if he were for 49, he would be returned against it in a fortnight, and 115, who pretends so much zeal now for 54, is altogether as mutable and has changed oftener but with more cunning, or at least less noise. The arrears for the Hanover troops will be voted the next supply day, I have ordered them to be brought in. I heartily wish you good success. Make my compliments where you think fit in the best manner.

I thank God the Queen has recovered her legs that she walks, and as soon as her mourning coaches for the Queen of Denmark are ready her Majesty will go to Kensington.

I will repeat again, the Queen will not believe he had orders to act in this manner. Let me add this that he was imposed upon, and took upon him to complain of the captains in Sir James Wishart's squadron, though Sir James and the rest are known Hanoverians, but this is only to show you how he is imposed upon by party. *Copy.*

[Lord Harcourt to the Earl of Oxford.]

[1714, April 14]—On Monday, the 12th April, 1714, as I was passing through the lodgings at St. James', in order to deliver the Lords' address, which was presently after presented, Baron Schutz came to me and desired to know when he might have an opportunity of speaking with me. Having seen him but once, to my knowledge, before, which was at his first coming, I did not know him, and answered with some indifference I might be at leisure, for ought I knew to the contrary, that afternoon. About six in the evening he came to my house, and having sent me his name, I received him with all the respect which was due to his character. He told me he was commanded by the Princess Sophia to thank me for the expressions I had used to him at his first coming of respect to the Princess and the House of Hanover, or words very much to that effect. I acknowledged the honour which was done me thereby in the best manner I could. He immediately added that he was likewise ordered to demand of me a writ of summons to Parliament for the Duke of Cambridge. I told him I thought it my duty to give the Queen immediate notice thereof. He desired to know whether I would issue the writ or not. I told him the writ had never been denied, or to my knowledge, demanded. I should acquaint her Majesty with what had passed, and that he should without any delay hear from me. Last night after I parted from your Lordship I sent the letter agreed on to Baron Schutz, he was either in bed or sent word he was so.

Records of the Courts of Wards and Requests.

1714, April 14—Memorial of John Anstis, showing that if it be the Lord Treasurer's pleasure to have the papers of the late Court of Wards digested into order, and so annex them to the office of Garter

King of Arms, he is willing to undertake the care thereof, without any salary or reward; these instruments taken upon oath being the most certain proofs of the nobility and gentry, etc.

In which case, he humbly proposes that each instrument be reduced according to order of time, with regard to the subject matter of it, and the contents put into Calendars, with three indexes, one of the surnames, the other of the lands, and the third of matters. All alphabetically disposed, under the particular counties, and that the loose papers (whereof there are an immense quantity) may be bound into volumes (if they appear to be of value) for preserving and keeping them constantly in the same method.

That the expense of new binding such books as want it and of the paper for making indexes, etc., be from time to time repaid, with other incident charges, upon laying particular accounts thereof before the Lord Treasurer.

These instruments consisting of duplicates of "Inquisitions post mortem" and proceedings of course in the Court of Wards, such as Liveries, Ousterlemains, Premier Seisins, proofs of ages, tenures of lands and services thereof, together with proceedings in cases of controversies, and a great quantity of old deeds, will require much time and pains to be put into method, so that if the Lord Treasurer please to allow three clerks (who have been conversant in matters of record) to be employed with such salaries as he shall judge proper, those persons may be sworn before one of the Barons of the Exchequer (these papers relating formerly to the revenue) not to embezzle or alter any of them, or any other papers under their charge, and if the Lord Treasurer pleases to permit him the liberty of nominating them, he will be answerable for their abilities, integrity, and progress in this affair, as also that the catalogue shall be transmitted to the Treasury subscribed by him, as a charge upon himself, to be afterwards signed in like manner by the successive Garters Kings of Arms, and the same, if thought necessary, may be printed for that purpose, as well as for the public service.

The books, parchments, and papers belonging to the Court of Requests shall be placed according to the catalogue of them, formerly printed by Sir Julius Cæsar, and when the contents of them are better known a further account shall be laid before your Lordship.

It is humbly submitted to the Lord Treasurer whether it be not necessary to have her Majesty's warrant for these purposes, if he approves the Act.

News Letter.

1714, April 15. London—Letters from Hamburg advise that the King of Denmark makes great preparations for a descent into Schonen or Scania, in which as it now appears to be concerted with the Czar of Moscovy, he is to be joined by a great body of Moscovite troops, and these troops are to come by sea from Petersburg. Some say they are to amount to twenty thousand foot and eight thousand horse and dragoons. In the meantime the Swedes are making preparations to give their enemies a warm reception if they are attacked, and have appointed Count Guldersterne, an old soldier, to command their army on that side, which they say will be thirty-five thousand men.

But if our letters from Berlin are to be depended upon, the Swedes will be able to make another figure in the field than their enemies

expect, for we are assured that a league offensive and defensive is signed and concluded between the King of Sweden, the King of Prussia, the Landgrave of Hesse Cassell, and the Duke of Holstein, that the King of Prussia has been brought into it by the haughty letters of the Czar of Moscovy threatening his Majesty with his arms if he offered to stir in favour of the Duke of Holstein, and refusing to ratify the sequestration of Pomerania. The Landgrave of Hesse Cassell is brought into it upon promise between the Hereditary Prince and the Princess Ulrica Eleonora, Regent of Sweden, and sister to the King of Sweden.

By this treaty the Landgrave of Hesse is to furnish eight thousand foot and four thousand horse. The Duke of Holstein three thousand foot and one thousand horse. The Swedes twenty-two thousand foot, and eight thousand horse, including the garrisons of Wismar and Stralsund, and these are all to be commanded by the Hereditary Prince of Hesse, and march into Holstein, while the King of Prussia is to take the field with forty-four thousand men in Pomerania, and the Swedes are to furnish a fleet of twenty-eight men of war of the line of battle, who are to lie in the coast of Livonia, to curb the Moscovites. If this account be true, the Danes may find other work than the invading of Schonen, and the King of Sweden, if he comes home, may have time given him to recover his losses in Finland, and drive the Moscovites over the Gulf again.

Letters from Utrecht advise that there is a very great disturbance in that city. The Spanish Ambassador, the Duke de Ossuna, has been pleased to hang his confectioner upon one of the trees of his garden, on pretence of having robbed him, and it seems that after the poor fellow was hanged and buried, it appeared that another person was found to be actor in the robbery, who would have been hanged also, but this being done without any form of public justice, the people began to assemble, and to threaten the Ambassador for having encroached on the public justice of the State, which has made his Excellence withhold from any further proceedings of that kind.

Yesterday the House of Lords read the first time the qualification bill from the Commons, and ordered it a second reading on Saturday next.

Yesterday the House of Commons went through the election of Clitheroe in Lancashire, which had held them two days, and voted it a void election.

On Monday last the Envoy of Hanover came to my Lord Chancellor and demanded the writ of summoning to Parliament the Electoral Prince of Hanover, as Duke of Cambridge, upon which a Cabinet Council was called the same night, and last night another, wherein we hear it was resolved that the writ should be issued, but that it should not be delivered to the envoy but sent over to Mr. Harley, the British Ambassador now at Hanover, and accordingly we are told a messenger was sent away with it last night. Whether the young Duke will think it convenient to come over, or consider of it first, time will discover.

News Letter.

1714, April 15—Yesterday the House of Lords read a second time the bill which came from the Commons, entitled, "A Bill for Securing the freedom of Parliaments by limiting the number of officers in the House of Commons," and committed it for Saturday next, upon a division, and then adjourned till to-morrow.

On Tuesday in the House of Lords a question was put whether the word "industriously" should be inserted in their address to her Majesty, and it was carried by two that it should.

Her Majesty has been pleased to grant to Edward Dupper, Esquire, the office of Serjeant Sealer to the Great Seal of Great Britain for his life after the death of Mr. Harvey.

They write from the Hague that though the King of Spain seems inclined to persist in his demands in favour of the Princess des Ursins, which retard the peace between his Catholic Majesty and the States, yet the French King has assured the Dutch Ambassador at his Court that to convince them how sincerely he has their interests at his heart, he is going to make use of the means that are in his hands to induce his grandson to desist from the said pretensions, that Princess not having deserved well of his most Christian Majesty by her constant opposition to the measures and influence of France at Madrid.

The Envoy of Modena, Count Bergoni, being worn out with old age and infirmities and tired of all business, designs, upon his return home, to retire into the country, and end his days there in peace.

They write from Dunkirk of the thirteenth instant, old style, that the twelfth, about nine hundred men began half a league from the Mole, at a place they call little North Graft, to cut a small place, that a boat may go to the new river, that they daily expect some hundreds of men to come to be employed in cutting off. They have laid an additional tax on beer to defray some part of the charge of the river. They go on with the demolishing of the basin, and it is said they will shortly begin on the citadel. The galleys sailed that morning, viz., the thirteenth instant.

This day the House of Commons, in a Committee, went on the state of the nation, and are debating about the following question, that the Protestant succession is not in danger under her Majesty's Government. A question was put whether they should adjourn the debate. Noes, two hundred and fifty-six. Yeas, two hundred and eight. Then the question was put as above, that the Protestant succession is not in danger, and carried, *nem. con.*

Petkum to the [Earl of Oxford].

1714, April [16-]27. The Hague—Since the last letters of the 20th, N.S., it is more freely said that the design is to pass the Pretender into England. Several members have told me that by the last resolution of the House of Lords, it would appear that the Ministry is raising the mask, and that its aim is to introduce the Pretender. It has also been told me in good faith that France has warned the Pretender to hold himself ready, and that Lord Bolingbroke has made a secret voyage to Versailles to arrange the execution of this great project. It is very certain that since the arrival of the said letters, Baron de Bothmar has been very busy, and he had the other day a conference of more than three hours with the Councillor Pens (?).

Since Mr. Harley left Amsterdam, it is said he went so quickly in order to put the Court of Hanover to sleep with fine promises, while the plan of introducing the Pretender into England was being matured.

Thomas Corbett to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, April [16-]27, N.S. Hanover—Describes shortly his journey through Westphalia to Hanover in attendance on Mr. Thomas Harley.

After a day's resting, Mr. Harley had his audience to which he was conducted in the Elector's coaches. The Court appears to have a very great satisfaction in having Mr. Harley with them, and shows a particular esteem to his person, besides the distinction of his character. We have paid our respects to the whole Electoral family.

I am but young at this Court, yet as my knowledge of the place increases, I shall trouble your Lordship with my observations, though what can I send new from a Court that is so much under your eye as this is?

LORD PAGET to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, April 19. Jermyn Street—I saw Mr. Secretary Bromley this afternoon, who tells me your Lordship is pleased to fix my establishment at 5*l.* a day, an allowance as little as any envoy ever had, and less than most of that character have had allowed of late years. But since duty to the Queen's commands made me consent to go, so I will scorn to refuse going from the shortness of the allowance, how hardly soever I may think myself treated by your Lordship on that head. For since you undertook at the first opening this matter to me that I should have the Queen's leave to return home at the end of the summer, I shall hope four or five months' extraordinary expense out of my own pocket won't undo me, since your favour determines it so to be.

But your Lordship will please to remember I took the liberty to insist upon one thing which had been long promised, and that was the title. And this I cannot question your Lordship's procuring before I go, because considering the common talk of the town, I should otherwise appear very ridiculous in that particular. I shall not trouble your Lordship again at your Levée without your consent, because when I was last there, I found by the haste you was in when I began to speak to you, I came improperly. If what I hear be true, I may be doubtful about my journey, for I am assured my going is opposed by one Lord if not more.

VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, April 20—The orders given last night and executed to-day make it absolutely necessary to dispatch without loss of time a Minister to Baden. Since after all the declarations made in the Queen's name, and all the expectation of assistance from her, raised in the Protestants of Germany, it would be very unfortunate if no Minister went, or if he that does go should not arrive in time. Your Lordship did not approve what I proposed yesterday. Will you allow me to propose another method of supplying this service? Why might not Prior be sent from Paris? He is enough versed in all the business which can be transacted at Baden, and there is nothing now to be done in France, which Mr. Ross, whom I am ready to dispatch, may not be capable of.

Note by the Earl of Oxford.—"He has opposed me about a Minister for Baden ever since the Peace of Rastad[t] was known to be concluded, and that I proposed one."

NEWS LETTER.

1714, April 20. London—Letters from Paris confirm the account formerly given of the general reform of the French troops, which is such that it seems the French King will have fewer forces by 60,000

men than ever he kept up in time of peace before, and that all his forces which he will now keep in pay will amount to no more than 54,000 foot and 26,000 horse and dragoons, which is but 9,000 men more than the Dutch keep on foot, and is 30,000 men less than the Emperor maintains in like time of peace. The same letters add that they have letters from Constantinople importing that the King of Sweden was preparing to return home by land through the Emperor's dominions by a passport from his Imperial Majesty, and likewise from the King of Poland, which gives farther ground to believe the report mentioned before, viz., that King Augustus and the King of Sweden were become friends.

Letters from Hamburg advise that they make very little progress in the treaty at Brunswick, the Swedes continuing to decline it, and that the King of Prussia is so disobliged at the King of Denmark for demolishing the fortifications of Tonningen, that he is taking other measures, and perhaps such as may make the Danes sorely repent it.

They write from Strasburg that they live in a perfect tranquillity and amity with the Germans, and that although the grand treaty with the Empire is not yet begun, yet that there is a free intercourse of commerce and friendship on both sides over the whole frontiers, as much as if all was settled, and that this is mighty agreeable to the country on both sides, being what they have known so little of for twenty years past; particularly the joy of the people of Bavaria is not to be expressed, they keep a continual rejoicing at Munich for five days, and the people are not able to contain themselves for joy on the hopes that they see their own prince restored again to the possession of his dominions.

They write from Venice that the Electress of Bavaria was so surprised with joy at receiving the news of the peace at Rastadt being concluded, having not many days before had an account of its being entirely broken off, that she fainted away as she was reading the letter, but was after some time recovered again, and that her Highness is disposing all things for her return to Munich, where her palace is ordered by the Emperor's appointment to be fitted up for her, and other preparations are making to receive her.

We are agreeably surprised here with an account from Spain, that the King of France has sent positive orders to Mons. du Cass, commander of the French men-of-war before Barcelona, and to the Count de Fiennes, general of the French troops in Catalonia, to act nothing against the Catalans or the city of Barcelona. The reason of this we are assured is, that her Britannic Majesty, having interceded with his Majesty on behalf of the said Catalans, and his Majesty having promised the Queen to move his grandson to treat with the Barcelonians, and to grant them their usual liberties, the King of Spain has refused his grandfather that request; which he has taken so ill, that he has refused him all manner of assistance in the siege, and it is thought if he continues to do so the Spaniards must comply or the Barcelonians will beat them all.

Our Whigs are under great disappointments at this time, their affairs in the Parliament going quite contrary to what they had made their party all over the kingdom to expect, for they had promised them no less than the overthrow of the Ministry, and the ruin of my Lord Treasurer by impeaching him in Parliament for sending money to encourage the Jacobites in the Highlands of Scotland, endangering the succession of Hanover, encouraging the Pretender, neglecting and

abandoning the Catalans, and making a dishonourable peace with France and Spain, whereas upon due and full examining all those things in the House of Peers, their Lordships have found the charge brought against the Ministry false in every part, insomuch that several of the Peers, who were inclined to believe the Whigs, confessed themselves surprised, and in all those things they have justified the administration. But this address last mentioned of giving the Queen thanks for the peace, entirely puts an end to the question, and it is not doubted but the Commons will join with their Lordships therein.

On Thursday the Common Council of London met again on the debate of their two members, and the Lord Mayor was served with a writ of injunction by the Whig members, to prevent his proceedings, so the cause must be first heard in Westminster Hall, whereupon they unanimously agreed for a petition to the Parliament to regulate their election.

We hear Sir John Trevor, Master of the Rolls, lies dangerously ill. The Lords have thrown out the Qualification Bill. ✓

[Viscount Bolingbroke to the Earl of Oxford.]

[1714, April 21.] Wednesday—The solicitation of the Speaker and his squadron is of a nature to keep no further measures with us. When I see your Lordship I will explain myself. For God's sake let Finch, of the Jewel Office, who is the busiest spark amongst them, be removed to-night. It will be worth the remove of two Whigs, and more grateful to our friends. To prevent competition about this employment, it may be given out that though the Queen does not yet declare the successor, yet she has determined him in her own mind, and that our friends will be perfectly pleased with him. I confess the man I wish for is Sir W. Barker, about whose election I will speak to your Lordship when I see you.

I will prepare to-day to recall Prior and send Rosa.

John Drummond to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, April 21. London—Your Lordship having been pleased on my arrival to do me the honour to present me to her Majesty, whose gracious goodness struck me with that awe and respect which becomes so mean and so dutiful a subject to so great and so good a Sovereign, I durst not detain her Majesty with so long a detail of the state of affairs in Holland, as I was charged with by some of the greatest men of that Republic, and which I humbly presume may be better laid before her Majesty by your Lordship, with whom I have had the honour to correspond on that salutary subject of reconciling the interests of her Majesty of Great Britain and those of the States General, by removing all jealousies which may have arisen, and have been fomented by ill designing men for to serve their own black designs to the prejudice of her Majesty's ease and service, and to hinder the advantages of her Majesty's subjects by the late honourable peace, which I can assure your Lordship has proven already to be of great profit to the trade of Holland, and gives them an opportunity to redress their finances, which were reduced to great extremities in all the seven United Provinces, the Province of Holland only excepted, which has even had enough to do to support the Receiver and Treasurer

General from being obliged to stop the payments of all interests and annuities (or in a manner more intelligible here), have prevented the shutting up of the Exchequer of that Republic.

Though many of the private men have had great gain by the war, yet this is the present state of the public revenues, though since the peace they have not been able to ease their subjects of any part of their taxes, a proposal for easing them having been put in execution, but was soon interrupted and made impracticable, by Mr. Cadogan and other rich men having demanded up great sums which they had lent the States during the war, as I had the honour to mention to your Lordship in my letters some time ago from the Hague. The above mentioned reasons, my Lord, with the concern which that Republic has for the Protestant religion, and the apprehension which they justly have of the Emperor uniting with France in matters of religion, and the Emperor's other threatenings about their barrier, with many other good reasons for them to entreat the honour of her Majesty's friendship, and the removing of all prejudices and jealousies which might in any manner interrupt that good intelligence betwixt her Majesty and that State, so necessary for the welfare and safety of both, had given me many opportunities of being with the Pensionary Heinsius and the Earl of Albemarle on this subject, as I have had the honour from time to time to acquaint your Lordship, and as does plainly appear by that worthy Earl's letters, the Pensionary's employment not allowing him to enter into any very particular correspondence with foreign ministers without the communication of the States. Yet your Lordship has sufficient proofs under this great Minister's own hand of what I have had the honour to say, and the happy hour seemed to be come for putting this salutary project in execution by Mr. Thomas Harley's arrival in Holland on his way to Hanover, to whom I had the honour to communicate all that had happened, and on whom I had the honour to wait to the Grand Pensionary, and to the Earl of Albemarle, whose respect for her Majesty and love for her service and ease I can never too much commend, both which great men did confirm to Mr. Harley what I had the honour to write to your Lordship, and to mention to him at his arrival, and he had no less assurances from Mons. Slingerland, the Secretary of State, and from Mons. Duyvenvorde, the head of the greatest family of that Republic, and from many others. In so far that before Mr. Harley left the Hague, the Grand Pensionary wrote to the Earl of Albemarle, who was gone for a few days to Voorst, that his Lordship might return to the Hague, and think of going into England to do his country a piece of service which would be ever glorious for him and his family, if it pleased God that he should succeed in re-establishing a firm and lasting friendship betwixt her Majesty and their Republic, and to confer with your Lordship about such treaties and alliances as should be thought fit by her Majesty to be renewed between the Crown of Great Britain and the States General. In compliance with which, my Lord Albemarle returned through Utrecht to the Hague on the 17th of April, N.S., and was pleased to desire me to come to the Hague as soon as I could, as appears by his letters to me.

About the 20th (after I had seen Mr. Harley on his journey to Hanover) I returned to the Hague, and was received with great friendship by the Earl of Albemarle, to whom I had told that leave was given me to come into England, and his Lordship was extremely pleased, saying that I would prepare matters for his coming over, and

if the Queen's business permitted me to stay that I would be of use to him at his arrival, on which I waited on the Pensionary, to whom I communicated my intention of going over, which he seemed pleased with, and desired me to write any thing material that should happen, for that his letters from England gave him accounts of great disputes in the House of Lords, and of great differences and jealousies amongst the first Ministers and courtiers; and that he commended my Lord Treasurer, who would rather quit his employment than join with a Jacobite club, or enter into any measures for bringing in the Pretender. He said also that day to my Lord Albemarle at the Chamber of the States of Holland, that he was glad that his Lordship was not gone for England, for that he believed that my Lord Treasurer could not now do them the service which they had reason to have expected from him; that his letters said that there were great animosities at Court, and that it would be best to wait till matters were settled, and that I was going into England, and by the accounts which I should send and bring over they would take their measures.

This, my Lord, equally surprised and concerned me very much to see so good a work delayed, and in a manner become dubious. I had no account at that time from England on which I could depend, and my Lord Strafford's accounts seemed not altogether well grounded, as I find since my arrival that they were not, but this I can assure your Lordship, and I had the honour to mention it to her Majesty, that there were never more sincere intentions nor more firm resolutions taken in Holland to recommend themselves to her Majesty's friendship and affection, and to have made a full and open declaration of their desiring to live in the strictest friendship and ease with her Majesty than when Mr. Harley left the Hague, and had it pleased God to have prevented those heats in the House of Lords, and more particularly those differences and animosities at Court, to which I am entirely a stranger, and I hope they are not so great as was reported at the Hague, neither of that nature, nor that they ever will be of that ill consequence to hinder her Majesty's affairs.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Read to her Majesty."

NEWS LETTER.

1714, April 22. London—We hear a marriage will be solemnised beween the widow of Mr. Parker, who was member of Parliament for Evesham, and the Earl of Clarendon. She has a thousand per annum jointure, and her father is to give her 20,000*l.*

Doctor Francis Dickens is made Reader of the Civil Law in Cambridge in the room of Doctor Ayloife, deceased.

Richard Wright, Esquire, is made Knight Harbinger, in the room of Malachi Thurston, Esquire.

The Government has sent Thomas Harley, Esquire, to acquaint the Court of Hanover to this effect:—that Baron Schutz having demanded a writ of the Lord Chancellor, without first acquainting her Majesty with it, for the D[uke] of C[ambridge], and several other things not becoming a public Minister, which her Majesty resents as an affront, therefore Mr. Harley is to represent to that Court that they speedily recall the Baron for his ill conduct.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, April 22. London—If we may depend upon our letters from Spain, and Italy by way of France, the whole power of Spain is like to

be disappointed if not defeated before Barcelona, the King of France having forbidden his Admiral du Cass, and his General, the Count de Fiennes, to act as was mentioned in our last, and we learn since, that the brigade of Engineers and Firemen, which were marching from Provence into Catalonia, are countermanded, and the Duke of Berwick and several other French generals, who were going also to serve in the Spanish army, are stopped; if this proceeds from the King's inclination to have the Catalans enjoy their privileges, there is no question but he will bring it to pass.

We hear from Paris that the Barcelonians have supplicated the King of France to take them into his protection, reminding his Majesty how when they revolted in the year 1676 and fled to his Majesty for his assistance, he declared their privileges to be justly due to them, and joined his army with them to oblige the Spaniards to grant the said demands as at the treaty of Roses, and that his Majesty is the guarantee of the liberties of Catalonia. This letter is so moving that they say the French King was heard to say to the Duke of Berry that King Philip must grant the Barcelonians their privileges or disoblige him very much.

Letters from the Hague advise that my Lord Strafford has presented another memorial to the States in very pressing terms about the evacuating of Ostend, and also another to the Emperor's Minister relating to the Protestant Princes of the Empire, and the abolishing of the 4th article of the Treaty of Ryswick. That Minister presses the States also very earnestly to enter into measures for the obliging the Roman Catholic powers to comply with their demand.

Letters from Germany say that the Ministers of the Princes of the Empire are setting out from all parts to the Congress at Baden in Switzerland, and that some of them are already arrived there. But we do not yet hear whether any Minister will be sent thither on the part of the Queen of Great Britain or the States.

They write from Vienna that the resentments of the Imperial Court against the new King of Sicily begin to abate, and the Emperor, being obliged by the Treaty of Rastadt to maintain the treaty of neutrality in Italy, his Majesty has thought fit to put a stop to his preparations in the Milanese, and to treat the King of Sicily with more courtesy. 40,000 Imperialists are ordered to march to the Netherlands.

The House of Commons have received the report of the Committee on the election for Southwark, and agreed that it is a void election; but in the report of the election for Brackley they have thrown out the sitting members, Sir Charles Egerton and Paul Methuen, Esquire, as likewise the Committee of Privileges and Elections have since done in that of Colchester, where Sir Isaac Rebow and Sir Thomas Webster, sitting members, are thrown out, and Mr. Gore and Mr. Corsellies, petitioners, are voted duly elected. Yesterday the House was moved that a writ be issued for a new election for Clitheroe in Lancashire, the last election having been made void by the House, but such manifest corruption appearing in the last election, the House refused to grant them a new writ. Yesterday the Commons went into a Committee upon Ways and Means for the first time, and resolved to raise 2*s.* per pound upon land, &c., and we hear the Malt Tax will be proposed on Monday, when they sit again upon that affair, after which we are assured a lottery of two millions is to be brought in.

Yesterday five malefactors were executed at Tyburn, whereof one was a youth under 15 years of age.

CAREW MILDMAY, M.P. for Harwich, to [THOMAS HARLEY].

1714, April 23. London—I have carried my election and return you thanks for it, since your friends here, mindful of your recommendation, gave me more countenance and assistance than I could in modesty have expected. I came luckily into the House before the debates on the Succession and Peace were entered upon,, and had the satisfaction to see you triumph, notwithstanding that the Speaker and a great many of your pretended friends divided against us. They were yesterday afraid their new proselytes would desert them, therefore would not divide.

LORD PAGET to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, April 23. Jermyn Street—In how many more things I am to expect to be misrepresented I know not. However I am sure nobody shall show more duty to the Queen, or more regard for her service than myself. But I must take leave to say 'twill be too great a task for me to undertake to serve under a Ministry prejudiced against me, and such I look upon those to be that can "hand" stories with a view to do me no good. I can't well be mistaken in what they must mean, and therefore I should think it more for the Queen's service to employ another person, for they can't fail of finding several they have a much better opinion of.

I also hear it is intended to keep me abroad a considerable time, and if that is intended I cannot by any means undertake to go.

I hear nothing of the title so long promised me, and if that be not granted before I go, I must be of opinion those that wish me ill must have prevailed too much against me, if a favour so long ago consented to by the Queen shall now be obstructed.

The several things I have mentioned touch me too nearly not to insist to be satisfied in them before I leave England, and for that reason must entreat your positive answer.

G[EORGE BUBB] DODINGTON to LORD HARLEY.

1714, April 24—Was prevented by indisposition from seeing his Lordship in the House about the Arabian horse and four breeding mares, now near Brompton Park; but will arrange for them to be shown to him at any time.

FREDERIC WILLIAM, King of Prussia, to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1714, April [13-]24, N.S. Berlin—Having prayed the Queen of Great Britain by a letter written expressly to her to be so good as to discharge the arrears due to me from the Crown, in virtue of the treaties made with me for the late war, I also address these lines to your Lordship, knowing well by your power as first Minister of the Crown, you are the most capable of causing my demand to be successful.

You will easily understand that as a matter of justice, as well of the honour and interest of Great Britain, treaties made so solemnly should be fulfilled. I shall have a special obligation to you for the care that you will take to secure this object, and for the rest my councillor and Resident Bonet is furnished with all the powers necessary, and will explain everything to you more fully. *French. Signed. Countersigned,* "Ilgen."

NEWS LETTER.

1714, April 24—Colonel Hooten of the Guards is to be removed, and Colonel Hays is to succeed him, and gives two thousand pounds for the command.

Charles Eversfield, Esquire, member of Parliament for Horsham, in Sussex, has been ill these two or three days of the small pox.

Sir Edward Northey, her Majesty's Attorney-General, has been very ill all this week. The Master of the Rolls has been also very ill, but is now pretty well recovered.

The House of Commons on Thursday agreed with the Lords in the address to her Majesty about the peace without dividing. If they had put the question they would have carried three to one.

Yesterday being the anniversary of her Majesty's Coronation, there was a vast appearance of the nobility and gentry at Court to wait on her Majesty, and in the evening concluded with a drawing room, bonfires, illuminations, and other demonstrations of joy.

Mr. Conyers presented the Bill for a duty of two shillings per pound on all lands, tenements, &c., which was read the first time, and ordered a second.

Our private letters from the Hague intimate that the Earl of Strafford, in a new conference with the State Deputies, had insisted again upon their High Mightinesses sending a Minister to Baden to act in conjunction with the Queen, and endeavour to get off the fourth article of the Treaty of Ryswick, but as they have advice that the Diet leave the peace to the Emperor, they pretend the Treaty will be concluded by the time their Minister could arrive, so they will scarce agree to that proposal no more than to another of his Excellency's, viz., that the States General should send a squadron into the Baltic with an English squadron to prevent the ruin of the poor Swedes threatened by the Czar on one side and the Danes on the other. It is true they assembled the Admiralties to have their opinions, who pleaded debts and want of credit and shipping; notwithstanding which the Earl of Strafford insisted again upon this article no longer ago than Monday last.

By a French mail this day, we have advice that the Spaniards are making provisions for eighty thousand men to besiege Barcelona, and the rebels still give out that they will defend themselves to the last extremity.

Baron Schutz is gone away by night.

The Earl of Portmore has now the Earl of Stair's command of the Royal Scotch Dragoons.

Last night two officers at Jenny Man's violently assaulted Mr. Needham, who belong to the Queen's Buttery, for drinking a health to the Queen, Church, and Doctor Sacheverell.

WILLIAM HETZLER to THOMAS HARLEY, at Hanover.

1714, April 24. Hague—Your Honour's stay in these parts had given some uneasiness to the Ministers here residing from certain Princes of Germany.

Postscript.—As I have the sight of the letters this State does from time to time receive from their Ministers abroad, if your Honour requires to be informed of what some of them do write, the same can be, under hand, transmitted to you; in which case I should be glad to know which of these letters I am to send; I mean the abstracts or translations from them.

1714, April 24. London—Letters from Hamburg advise that the Swedes are exceedingly alarmed at the preparations of the Danes and Muscovites for making a descent into Schonen, which if they can't prevent they will be in danger of being surrounded on every side with their enemies. They add that the Swedes apply themselves with the utmost diligence to oppose the projects of the invaders, but that greatest dependence seems to be on the measures which they are taking in Germany by which they propose still to cut the Danes out so much work in Holstein, that they shall think it the safest way to stay at home and defend their own country.

They write from Cassel that the Landgrave of Hesse is augmenting his troops, and that he takes on those men who are disbanded out of the Hanover army, especially the cavalry, and the King of Prussia is doing the like, from whence the report of those princes being entered in an alliance with the Swedes is again spoken of, and that by this conjunction the Swedes will bring an army of 40,000 men into the field, with which they will march directly into Holstein, which they doubt not will prevent a descent into Schonen.

Letters from Paris assure us that his most Christian Majesty, having given audience to the Cardinal del Guidicy, who came express from Madrid to know what it was the King was displeased at, told the Cardinal plainly that he was resolved to put an end to all the wars and combustions of the Christian world, that he wondered his grandson should stand off upon trifles. That France had done enough to support Spain, and he expected Spain should do so much for him as to establish her own peace, especially since they were so unable to stand against the powers who they still contended, that all the powers of Spain could not take one poor fishing town without his help, and concluded that without more words he would have peace with Holland and Portugal forthwith signed, or he would concern himself no further in the Spanish affairs. The same letters add that the Cardinal finding matters come to that length, has despatched a courier to Madrid to acquaint the King of Spain and to receive further instructions.

By letters from Dunkirk, we have advice that the men employed in the demolishing have pulled up one of the long piers and carried away the timber, and the piles that could be saved, the rest has been burnt as it stood or split with gunpowder, so that the pier is wholly destroyed, and they are at work upon the other, and in about five weeks that stupendous work which was the labour of 2,000 men, and was eight years in finishing, will be entirely ruined.

We hear that notwithstanding this progress in the ruining of the harbour, yet some people would fain have brought an enquiry upon the stage in a certain house why Dunkirk was not demolished.

We are told that the Imperialists threaten that as soon as their troops arrive in Flanders, they will dislodge the English from Ghent and Bruges, whereupon we hear that orders are sent to our Ambassador at the Hague to let the Dutch know that if they do not speedily evacuate Ostend, her Majesty will be obliged to send more troops into Flanders to enable her Majesty there to maintain their ground without being insulted.

Yesterday being the Queen's Coronation day, it was observed with extraordinary joy, and we hear that the effigies of Jenny Man, the

coffee woman, and Richard Steele, Esquire, were attended to a bonfire with the usual ceremony, both of them having made themselves famous for affronting the best of queens in the most odious manner possible.

William Hetzler to Thomas Harley.

1714 [April 25-]May 5. Hague—It is near four years I am here employed in the service of the Ministry. You have been informed of the examination I was here under the year 1712 on account of this service, upon some dispute that then had arisen betwixt the Resident of Holstein, Mons. Petkum, and me, on the occasion of his scandalous and gross reflections on the Ministry; and that upon my faithful report thereof made to Lord Bolingbroke, her Majesty's orders were sent to Mr. Wych, then Resident at Hamburgh, and since deceased, to complain to the Duke of Holstein of the conduct of the said resident. Lord Bolingbroke was afterwards pleased to require of both of her Majesty's ambassadors at Utrecht to take me under their protection, and they declared by their certificates, of which I enclose copies, that I should be considered as actually here employed in her Majesty's service. The Earl of Strafford has, however, since, to my great amazement, threatened to acquaint the States with that I did to their prejudice, because I corresponded without his knowledge, with most of her Majesty's ministers abroad, viz., Mr. Jackson, Mr. Pulteney, Mr. Scott, Mr. Breton, and Mr. Wych, who have every one of them signified to me that my correspondence is to them valuable, and even of service. The justice of my case will, I hope, engage your Honour to second my small interest in England with your most favourable recommendation and most powerful protection.

Lord Paget to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, April 27. Jermyn Street—Not having had the honour of hearing from you, I entreat to know whether it is determined by her Majesty that I am to return at the end of the summer, otherwise my affairs won't permit me to go for a longer stay. Also I must desire to be informed whether I am to have the honour so long promised me, before I go abroad or no. Till I am favoured with a line in answer to the particulars above mentioned, you shall not have further trouble from me.

News Letter.

1714, April 29—Her Grace the Duchess of Kent is brought to bed of a son.

This night is to be interred in Henry the Seventh's Chapel, in the vault belonging to the family of his Grace the Duke of Ormond, the corpse of the Lady Elizabeth Stanley.

Letters from Hanover say that the Electoral Prince, *alias* the Duke of Cambridge, had prepared his equipage to go for England, but the Princess-Dowager Sophia told him that she would not have him go. Accordingly his Highness has put off his journey.

On Tuesday was heard before the House of Lords a cause depending in Chancery, Colonel Philip Herbert and his Lady, appellants, against the Earl of Winchelsea, the Honourable John Finch, and others,

respondents, concerning the late Earl of Winchelsea's estate, and their Lordships confirmed the decree for the respondents without a division.

Charles Whitworth, Esquire, mentioned in this day's "Post Boy," is one of the Commissioners that treat with the French about the commerce which will be finished and ready to be laid before the House of Commons about the latter end of the next week.

This morning died the Lady Katherine Fitzgerald. She was aunt to the Earl of Kildare, a man of great piety and virtue.

We expect here very soon Mathew Prior, Esquire, her Majesty's Plenipotentiary at Paris, and General Ross is preparing his equipage to go thither forthwith, as her Majesty's Ambassador extraordinary.

They write from Dublin of the twenty-second instant, that the soldiers mentioned from that city in this day's "Post Boy," have laid down their arms—that the Whigs are very cool in their affections to the Duke of Shrewsbury—and that the Churchmen caress him. There is no talk now when he sets out for England.

The Committee on Anstruther [Burghs] Election gave it for Sir John Anstruther, Baronet, sitting member, against George Hamilton, Esquire, petitioner. Yeas, one hundred and nine. Noes, one hundred and one.

[Thomas Harley to the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, May [1-]11, N.S. Hanover—I have had several conferences since I came here, they have been told such strong stories of 49 (the Pretender), and what 131 (Tories) and 124 (Whigs) will do, that no other subject will please, they think 137 (the invitation) an innocent person, I must leave the particulars till I return.

I design to set out from hence next Tuesday. I shall not willingly stay in Holland above two days, but go to Rotterdam and Helvoetsluys. I suppose a yacht will be very necessary, there being several gentlemen with me, most of them will return home. Mr. Duncom will see Paris first, whether 55 (Prince Electoral) has changed his mind about going to 138 (England) I cannot be certain, though I think he expects some bills of exchange before he can go, but what 83 (E. Strafford) has wrote of 54 (Elector) being an obstruction is not altogether so.

[*The decypherings in brackets are in Lord Oxford's handwriting.*]

News Letter.

1714, May 1—On Thursday was the birthday of the Duke of Ormond and several officers of the Guards, and others had entertainments made at taverns to celebrate the same. That afternoon the Queen took the air as far as Kensington, and yesterday touched for the Evil, and it is observed that she never was better.

A patent is passing the seals making James Moody, Esquire, a Commissioner of the Excise in Scotland, in the room of Mr. Whetham, who not long since was made a Commissioner of the Excise in England.

The Lord Bingley is now preparing to go forthwith as Ambassador to Spain.

Yesterday the counsel for Mr. Bedford, who is in custody for publishing the book entitled "The Hereditary Right, &c.," in folio, moved for an arrest of judgment in the Court of Queen's Bench, but it was not granted him, so he is to be brought up thither next Tuesday to receive his sentence.

They write from Dublin of the twenty-fourth that the Monday before her Majesty's writ of mandamus was sent to Sir Samuel Cook, the Lord Mayor, commanding him to choose a Lord Mayor to serve for the remaining part of the year. Accordingly the twenty-third, he and the Aldermen met. His Lordship named three to be put in election, to have one of them chosen, but the Aldermen refusing to come to an election unless they had the naming of one, his Lordship dissolved the assembly. Then they cried out, "We choose Alderman Anthony Bartrey." But the Lord Mayor told them he opposed their proceedings, so left them. Then Alderman Bartrey chose Mr. John Racson for his Sheriff.

This day we received a packet from France with advice from Paris of the seventh of May, that Mr. Ozey is gone from Madrid with a great sum of money to pay the troops in Catalonia; that they threw into Barcelona several bombs which did much damage to the besieged; that they have begun at Mardyke to make a port there, which will be as advantageous as Dunkirk; that the Chevalier de Rohan and the Duke de Montbazon are condemned to the Bastille for a year for beating the Duke de Aumont's servants; from Sicily that the King was building sixteen men-of-war and was raising three regiments to guard the kingdom.

[Erasmus Lewis] to [Thomas] Harley, at Hanover.

1714, May 4. Whitehall—We have put off the meeting that was intended for considering the manner of introducing the demand of the Hanover subsidies, till such time as we could know from you, whether they merited that we should engage in so warm a contest for their sakes. If your letters in answer to those you received by Barlow do not determine the point, we shall be at a loss what to do, for we must either support it or drop it in a few days.

Lord Chancellor and Lord Bolingbroke seem already to have broken their new undigested confederacy.

The yacht for Lord Paget is ordered to be ready by next Thursday.

[John Drummond to Thomas Harley.]

1714, May 4. London—I had a speedy passage, and have been now sixteen days here. It is my misfortune to come always to England when one would desire least to be in it, the first piece of news which I met with was Mr. Schutz's demanding a writ for the Duke of Cambridge, which if he had demanded in a manner as respectful to the Queen as his behaviour has been to the malcontent party, he would have received it with all other marks of favour and distinction which are due to the Minister of the presumptive heir, in place of being deservedly forbid the Court, as I hope he is by this time the Court of Hanover, for never did a Minister do worse services to his master's interest. When out of complaisance the Lords allowed him to stay in the House when they voted the thanks to her Majesty for the peace, he had the impudence to thank the Lords who voted against thanking her Majesty.

At my arrival, I found 25 had been very ill treated by 27 and his friends, both male and female, but 25 and the females are very well, and 27 will be the sacrifice unless he be able to justify himself, 33 for that reason will remain where he is, 27 is charged with having great

friendship and intimacy with 32, and 25 takes no pains to justify him, neither can they live together without being esteemed equally affected to 32 and in prejudice to 29. You were never more wanted by your friends than at this time, neither could any consideration less than the Queen's service make them want the pleasure of your company. 35 is a worthless fellow, 26 as honest a man as ever lived, and with 34 and many others will always follow the fate of 25. The unanimous address of the House of Commons will I hope show the Elector and all his Court that the body of this nation is pleased with the peace. Our friends at 22 are making great court to 19, and I am for preventing them, and have wrote by order to 30 and others, and 29 may do 24 service there by your means. I want a little of your assistance in my own affair, for your conjunct is an advocate for my friend who lodges where you did at Amsterdam. I shall be here at least twenty-four days longer, and I hope to meet you where I left you, perhaps by way of 31. There are two alterations in the Stamp Office, and Sir David Nairn succeeds Mr. Godolphin in the Customs. 25 designed your humble servant to be there, but 24 was engaged long ago by one who must be pleased, and will be pleased. I have not heard from 16 since my arrival, but I expect to hear to-morrow. I saw 27 at my arrival, but never could be admitted since, and everybody else make the same complaint, though I am told this evening that he is resolved to submit, even though it should make him despicable.

The Duke of Richmond to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 5. Paris—By the death of the Duke of Berry the Queen is to send a compliment to the King. If her Majesty thought me a proper person I should be very proud to obey her commands.

August William, Duke of Brunswick, to the Earl of Oxford.

1714, May [6-]17, N.S. Wolfenbuttel—Introducing his Councillor J. F. Hallangius with letters to the Queen, setting forth the bad state of his affairs, and the necessity for certain money due to him to be paid. *Latin.*

News Letter.

1714, May 6. London—There having been put up in White chapel an altar piece, wherein Doctor K[en]nett is represented as a Judas amongst the twelve Apostles, the following lines were sent to the doctor upon its being taken down:—

Falteris, hac qui te pingi sub imagine crevis,
Non similis Judas est tibi, pœnituit
Sed Judæ similem si vis, te reddere.

In English.

You're out to think you are by Judas meant,
You Judas? No, he was a penitent,
But yet there is a way, and that but one,
Go hang yourself, and then the work is done.

Orders are sent that the Earls of Hertford and Orkney's regiments should march from Dunkirk to Newport.

On Tuesday last Mrs. Feltham, whose husband keeps a shop at the Parliament stairs foot, was taken up and carried to the Lord Bolingbroke's office for selling a scandalous ballad called "Nothing but Truth," highly reflecting on the Queen and Ministry, and yesterday bound over in two sureties each for three hundred pounds for her appearance.

The Prince of Nassau Siegen, who is a Roman Catholic, and was lately in the service, being now out of employ, is soliciting himself his pretensions to the succession of Orange. He is so very poor that he was the other day arrested and imprisoned, but soon released from thence. The Court of Brabant, before which his pretensions partly lie, have ordered him a small pension for his subsistence, but he is of so generous a nature that it will not half do. On the other hand the King of Prussia's Minister teases the Dutch about Herstal, as do that of Hanover, and some others for money.

Our last advices from Sir James Wishart are that he, with his squadron, is within forty leagues of Cadiz.

Next week the Lord Walgrave is to be married to Sir John Webb's daughter, with whom he is to have twelve hundred pounds.

This day the Commons agreed with the committee that Mr. Gore and Mr. Corsellis are duly elected for Colchester. Yeas, one hundred and seventy-four. Noes, one hundred and eight.

[The Earl of Dartmouth,] Lord Privy Seal, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 7—I shall not fail to wait upon his Grace to-morrow morning, who seems very willing to tell me anything he knows, but if he should not, I suppose whatever passed in that company cannot be a secret half a day, and so I shall tell my neighbour if he pretends to make one of it. Anglesey was at the Backstairs to-night, and I think very much frighted by some things he said to me; and there is not a Finch in town that has not been at my house this evening, from whence I conclude they are all under great apprehensions of our Mistress's displeasure, which shall not be removed by your most faithful servant.

[Erasmus Lewis to Thomas Harley.]

1714, May 7. Whitehall—Yesterday in the evening the Queen returned from Kensington to St. James's, very much indisposed, which is attributed partly to a cold she is supposed to have taken and partly to the reports generally spread, and believed here, that the Court where you are is determined to keep no measures with her. The Duke of Argyll produces letters that the Electoral Prince is to come hither, and that he will not do the Queen the honour to give her any intimation of it. I saw your friend Dr. Arbuthnot this afternoon, who told me her Majesty was much better.

The Land Tax Bill is gone to the Lords. Since you left us we have several new journalier papers, viz., the 'Reader," the "Monitor," the "Patriot," and the "Muscovite;" I may add the "Lover," for being of late turned wholly to politics, contrary to the first intention, it may be called a new paper. Mr. Walpole, in the select committee, has proposed a general indemnity for Mr. Bridges.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 8. Edinburgh—I acquainted you by Thursday's post that the Assembly had met and chosen Mr. Mitchell their moderator; and enclosed my speech.

I send by this flying packet copies of the Assembly's answer to the Queen's letter, and their address congratulating her Majesty on her recovery. So soon as I hear they are accepted by her Majesty, I shall dissolve this Assembly, or sooner if their business can be ended.

I beg leave to entreat you to put the Queen in mind to order the advancing of the 2,000*l.*, which has been now ten years due to me of my salaries.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 8—Your letter found me in a great crowd of company, entertaining ourselves with Mrs. Robinson's voice, and if there were any dispatches made, as 'tis highly probable there were, to several Courts, I had no hand in them.

I do assure your Lordship I never said anything like what you mention. I said very plainly I was unacquainted with that matter, and had suffered so much once before in something of that kind, that I should never meddle with it again; but that is a subject fitter for discourse. This I will say, that we are the most unhappy nation under the sun, running to inevitable destruction, though we all profess to mean the same thing, but surely they are most to blame, who have it in their power to make good their professions by their actions.

Lord Paget to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 9. Jermyn Street—I am a good deal surprised that there is still difficulty made in granting me the title. 'Tis what I had never asked, and what I as little thought there would have been need of great solicitation to have procured, for several reasons; but since 'tis not done, and so much pains have been taken to make it talked of about the town as a thing done, I must be of opinion it is at this time refused purely to convince me 'tis the desire of those who advise the Queen that I neither have the favour of her Majesty or the kindness of my friends about her, and is in plain English telling me they refuse me these assurances that I may be obliged to desire not to go that service. If I mistake this matter, 'tis in your Lordship's power to set me right, by procuring this to be done for me.

[Thomas Harley to the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, May [11-]22, N.S. Hague—I came here late last night, and will this day and to-morrow speak with my Lord Strafford and some others, and then go to the seaside in expectation of a vessel to carry me over.

The Elector and the Electoral family to the last declare their readiness to depend entirely on the Queen and to do nothing that may be disagreeable to her Majesty. I cannot enlarge now on affairs from Hanover, but hope to give an exact account when I come to England, and I flatter myself her Majesty will approve my coming away when I did, notwithstanding my Lord Strafford tells me he wishes I had stayed longer.

As to what I have met with at Amsterdam and the Hague: 54 is not against the project of 55 [Prince Electoral], and has gone so far as to name and agree to some part how it shall be executed, 53 and 55 are very forward, and he is preparing for it, but it is my opinion it will not take effect without 32. I have a choice scheme to show 34, and till that has been considered I think 137 signifies nothing, which is made by 124 [the Whigs], great credit is given to 124 and 37, and much depended on. Nothing can alter this but some disappointments and difficulties, which probably may happen.

45 being to speak to 33 has quieted that affair at present.

I this moment spoke with 46, who is not yet in a condition to satisfy what is demanded of him, though he owns it to be his interest not to defer it.

There is a yacht now at Rotterdam under orders for Monsieur Overkerk, I am sorry I cannot make use of it.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 13—Poor Congreve is again alarmed by reports he has had that their commission [of wine licences] is renewing. He does not doubt the continuance of your Lordship's favour to him, depending on the assurances you have given him, as well as me, of your care and protection of him. But I beg you will enable me to ease him entirely of his fears.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Mr. Congreve—Answered that night."

News Letter.

1714, May 13—On Monday last the Common Council of this city sat, and her Majesty having sent her mandamus to the Lord Mayor in order to swear in eleven of the Common Councilmen of Cheapside Ward, who were, by the partiality of Sir William Humphreys, not allowed to be legally chosen, but admitted eleven others, to the prejudice of the aforesaid Common Councilmen, he, in pursuance of the said mandamus, swore in the eleven former loyal citizens.

Dublin, May 1—This day Mr. Edward Surdwell, one of our Sheriffs (of a Dutch race), had several writs put into his hands on the Exchange, and the parties against whom they were, were showed to him. He threw the said writs down, and said he had nothing to say to the matter. There will be actions of damages, &c., against him for the refusal of his office.

Dublin, May 4—We hear from good hands that her Majesty will lay all the matters as to our Mayoralty before both Houses of Parliament, and in order thereunto the Council is to meet this afternoon, and the aldermen are summoned to attend, and are now sitting (being at eleven at night).

Our Whigs now begin to hang down their ears (it's pity they have any) since Lord Bolingbroke's letter, which came to our Lord Lieutenant yesterday, as to ordering the judges to send an account of their proceedings against our factious aldermen and their opinion as to our matters.

The Paris letter of May 19, N.S., says the Marquis de Langallerie is gone to Amsterdam, and makes profession of the Protestant religion.

Monsieur Puy-Vauban is gone for the camp before Barcelona, and the Duke of Berwick will follow forthwith.

The King of France has begun to wall in the forest of Marly, which will cost him four or five hundred thousand livres.

The Duchess of Berry is well.

Yesterday Sir William Wyndham made a motion, and the eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh sections of the Statute of thirteenth and fourteenth of Charles the Second, entitled an Act for the uniformity of Public Prayers, &c., being read, it was ordered that leave be given to bring in a bill to prevent the growth of schism and for the security of the Church of England as by law established.

Dr. W[illiam] Ayerst to [Thomas] Harley.

1714, May [13-]27, N.S. Hague—I have not received any letters for you from any part, nor have I had any myself from England, except one from Mr. [illegible]well, who assures me the Queen is entirely quit of that attack of an ague.

I received this day a letter from Hamburg, wherein was inclosed in cypher a relation from one at Han[ove]r, who signs himself "Gibson St. Leger," containing that the Elector told him that the Lords Whar[to]n and Somers having represented the Prince Electoral's presence in England as absolutely necessary, otherwise they could hold out no longer, the Elector had resolved upon sending him under pretence of going to hunting with one servant only, that he should come incognito to London, when the foresaid Lords should propose some address in which the other party might concur, and that while they were presenting it to her Majesty, the Duke should come and surprise her Majesty and tell her that he came to kiss her hands and have the honour of sitting one week in the House of Peers, and so to return home.

However ridiculous this seems, I thought it my duty to let you know it, and if you should be told of it from others to entreat you will not seem to have known anything of it from me.

Lord Paget to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 14. Jermyn Street—I cannot but be extremely surprised at the paragraph in your letter of last night, where you advise me to go upon the service, that I may deserve what has been promised me almost a year ago. Sure, of all men I ought to be convinced that is not the way to deserve. My father is too great instance of that, for if serving many years abroad, and that successfully too, could have entitled him to merit, he might reasonably be allowed to have some expectations, and yet after his return to England he was so far from being rewarded that he lived totally neglected and unregarded; but I will say no more on that head or solicit for the favour now hinted at.

The fact that concerns me in the matter is that it is a plain declaration that I am to go abroad without the countenance, support, or even favour of my friends, and under such circumstances you cannot advise me to undertake such a service where the success may be doubtful, and my want of protection and credit, either at that Court or at home, is too plainly made to appear.

If this matter be truly stated to the Queen, I daresay she is too good not to think I run too great a risk to undertake (with the best intentions) such a service, when 'tis doubtful at the time I undertake it who may have it in their power to misrepresent my actions.

LORD COWPER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, May 14—Had I been so fortunate as to have been at home when the Minister called at my house the day before he waited on the Lord Chancellor, I flatter myself I should have had presence of mind to have endeavoured the preventing a step, which must now prove inconvenient, whatever is done upon it; if the Prince should not come, his friends will be generally disheartened, a great many angered, if not alienated from the interest of his family; if he should come, I fear there is too much reason to apprehend the dangers your Lordship intimates in yours of the 12th. But I imagine they wholly proceed from its being in the power of some to make their advantage against your Lordship, whenever anything is done by you, or not hindered, which is wholly for your country's security; and yet if your Lordship does not interpose, we must be ruined in a little time. So that I cannot see with submission any way left to do good, but by your Lordship exerting yourself speedily, so far as to get those out of power who will not so much as profess themselves to be for the true interest of their country. When that is done and there is a Ministry of one mind in the great point, nothing of this nature can then drive you to the wall (as your Lordship expresses it) or put you under difficulties; and at the same time it will be the easier for those, who, though out of the service, wish the Queen as much quiet and happiness as if they were in, to endeavour the suppressing every attempt that is not perfectly agreeable to her pleasure.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, May 15. London—On Monday last when the eleven loyal Common Councilmen of Cheapside Ward were admitted, three of the eleven Whigs that were got in by the partiality of Sir William Humphreys (as mentioned in our last), would not go out of Court, although they were ordered, till the Lord Mayor sent his officers and turned them out.

They have begun to lay the foundations of a large and fine church to be built on Millbank, Westminster, and yesterday morning James Bertie, Esquire, and Sir Thomas Cross laid the first stone.

Dublin, May 8—Our Aldermen having sent a representation of their case to the Queen, her Majesty ordered the same to be sent back (without opening) that our Government Council and judges may make a report as to the matter therein contained. In order thereunto all the judges met at the castle four or five afternoons this week, which report we hear contains forty sheets of paper, and will be sent to her Majesty in a few days.

It is said our Recorder, four Aldermen, and one of our Sheriffs were again called in the Queen's Bench, but not appearing they were fined five hundred pounds more, which fines on them in all amount to two thousand one hundred pounds, nine hundred pounds of which is estreated in the Exchequer.

Our private letter from the Hague of May [11-]22 (this day arrived), brings that the States General have resolved to send letters of con-

dolence to the Kings of France and Spain in answer to those they received from the said Monarchs, one notifying the death of the Duke of Berry, and the other that of the Queen of Spain.

Mr. Harley is arrived at the Hague from Hanover. The Dutch do not certainly know the disposition of that Court in relation to their sending the Duke of Cambridge into England, but it is the general opinion there that he will come. The Earl of Strafford insists still upon the States sending Ministers to Brunswick and Baden and none to Prussia to treat about the barrier, saying this last would be to depart from their guaranty in the Barrier Treaty, and desert the Queen of Great Britain, who has on so many occasions given them full proof that the prosperity of their Republic is one of her principal cares. N.B.—We cannot believe, as the Dutch, that the Duke of Cambridge will come over, for we are very well satisfied he does not.

Lord Bingley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 16—I took the liberty on your Lordship's first doing me the honour of proposing my journey into Spain, to represent the expense I should be at in leaving my family in England, as well as the inconvenience of carrying them with me, and if I have made no preparations hitherto for their going, it was because your Lordship gave me leave to hope I should have an employment here, which I thought would bear part of the extraordinary charge would be required at home.

When I mention this I flatter myself your Lordship will forgive me, since it is not with a view of pressing for the post now if it be improper. I have too much confidence in your Lordship's goodness to me, and am too sensible of my obligations to be the least uneasy, or think anything a disappointment if the granting it is inconsistent with any of your Lordship's measures, but as I am under the necessity of taking immediately the resolution of carrying my wife with me or leaving her (which will depend on my prospect of allowances), I am begging from your Lordship's goodness so much certainty as that I may regulate my affairs.

I am very sensible, my Lord, how very unreasonable it is to trouble your Lordship now with my little concerns, and can only plead for my excuse the extremity of time I am driven to, my baggage being to embark on Wednesday, after which I shall stay for nothing but my ship's getting to Plymouth, and your Lordship's commands, which for the rest of my life shall be observed as the rules of it, as well as obeyed with the pleasure I ought to have in having any opportunity of showing my dependency on you, and of my being with the greatest sense of gratitude, &c.

Lord Lexington to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 17. Bath—I told your Lordship at parting that I hoped you would put the Queen in mind of me, if there was any room for her Majesty to show me any mark of her favour, and that I was the only one of all her Plenipotentiaries who had not received some very considerable one; and I hope I may be forgiven if I say that I have at least as successfully obeyed her commands as any one of them.

LORD NORTH AND GREY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, May 17—I am extremely sensible of the honour of yours, and obliged that you will take a proper opportunity. It is certain my little affairs ought not the least interrupt your Lordship's business, much less her Majesty's, but I hope they will find some time to be heard, for they are great to me. I am sensible of my incapacity every way of serving her Majesty in the way I am in, for postponing my circumstances, few people will be fond of following the opinions of a man so much neglected as I have been; nay, your Lordship, my patron, will incur some blame of not having interceded for one who has endeavoured to serve you out of consideration of us both, therefore if I am not encouraged as I ask, pray get me leave to retire. 'Tis a small thing for me to sacrifice my interest to her Majesty after the rest. 'Twill be but nine days' wonder when it happens, and much easier to me than to answer eternal questions of why they not do this, that, and the other thing for you.

The DUKE OF ATHOLL to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, May 17. Edinburgh—This day I have dissolved this Assembly, which has separated with the greatest quiet and content that has yet been known, and I can say further that they return home full of duty and sense of her Majesty's favour and goodness to them, so that I am fully persuaded they will use their endeavours to keep all under their care in peace and quiet, whatever may happen elsewhere they will not be made tools to create any disturbance. This I have done my utmost to persuade them of, and I hope the good effects of this Assembly shall continue. I have given the Earl of Mar particular accounts, so shall not trouble your Lordship to repeat them. I hope our good Queen will be satisfied with their proceedings and mine, and that there is nothing so much at my heart as to do all in my power to make her easy and her Government fixed and flourishing.

Postscript.—I enclose my speech and a copy of the Assembly's thanks to their commission and observations on the 5,000*l.* paid by the late tacksmen, by which your Lordship will see that money is at her Majesty's disposal.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, May 18. London—On Friday last there was a great trial at the Queen's Bench between the Bishop of Rochester, as Dean of Westminster, plaintiff, and the parish of St. Margaret's, Westminster, defendant, the first alleging that he had a right in putting a clerk to the parish, the other setting forth it was their right. There were learned counsel on both sides, who fought strenuously for their clients, but upon the Lord Chief Justice's summing up the evidence, the jury gave it against the Bishop.

Letters from Italy say the Earl of Peterborough having finished his negociations at the Court of the King of Sicily, arrived the 25th past N.S. with some English ships at Naples, from whence he set out post the 28th for Rome, where being arrived, he went to see the Pope, being conducted by the Minister of Savoy, after which he went to see the Vatican, where refreshments were prepared for him in the gallery by

order of his Holiness, and his Lordship proceeded the fifth instant to Florence, in his way to Genoa, where he intends to embark for England.

Major-General Eliot, late Governor of Gibraltar, is dead.

This morning the Lord Waldegrave set out for Gloucestershire in order to be married to one of the daughters of Sir John Webb, baronet of that county.

This day sevennight the Ambassador here from the King of Sicily makes his public entry.

The Reverend Mr. William Ayerst, chaplain to the Earl of Strafford, is appointed secretary to the embassy in the room of the Honourable George St. John, Esquire.

We are informed that Baron Schutz was refused to be admitted at the Court of Hanover.

By our private letter from the Hague of May 22, we have that the Dutch, having been several years exempted from paying towards the lighthouse of Farderoe, in Denmark, whereas the English, and even Danes themselves, paid one penny per last for maintaining it, the Danes demanded, about eighteen months ago, that the Dutch would pay as much, but the States General resolved the 3rd of January last, that their subjects should pay one halfpenny per last, and hoped the Danes would be satisfied with that. However, the new Danish Resident has presented a long memorial demanding as much from the subjects of Holland as from the others above mentioned, at which the Dutch pretend to be surprised.

By a French mail this day of May 27, it is advised from Gironne that the Marquis de Thony has defeated a body of five hundred rebels, three hundred of them killed or taken, and that Count ffiennes has defeated another near Cassel ffolles, of above two thousand more; as also from Toulon it is reported that part of Monsieur du Casse's squadron fell upon a convoy of thirty barques, &c., of which they took twelve before Barcelona. The rest sailed towards Majorca.

Lord Paget to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 19—I was a good deal surprised since coming to town last night to be told that the Ministry laid much blame upon me for not hastening to Hanover. Who I am to understand to be the Ministry I know not well, but presume 'tis understood to be your Lordship, at least in this instance. When you first spoke of this journey to me, I told you that nothing was more out of my thoughts than going abroad, and that if I went I must go fully instructed in every point that had been the subject of any former misunderstanding. As to myself, I expected that to be done which would satisfy me of her Majesty's favour and the regard of my friends, and that particularly in one thing, which I had been long promised, and in which I thought I had been treated with great neglect, and want of friendship. You know in the former, as yet I am but slenderly informed, and in what relates to myself you are now pleased to make difficulties in it, though without giving reason for so doing. And you know that besides the points already mentioned, not so much as all the money is as yet ordered that I know of. Upon the whole, matters standing as they do, I did not think your Lordship intended my going at this time, or at least not so soon as has been hinted since my coming to town. I must entreat you therefore, either to remove the difficulties or not lay the fault of not going at my door.

1714, May 20—We are informed that in the Act of Parliament that is preparing about schism, there will be a clause to prevent Protestant Dissenters from having academies or seminaries of school for the education of youth.

A warrant is passing the seals directing the Treasurer of the Navy to pay a million of money in order to the discharge of the several men-of-war, as also another directing Mr. How to pay four hundred thousand pounds for the discharge of guards and garrisons, and next week the half-pay officers will be paid a quarter's salary, and about three weeks hence another quarter.

On Tuesday last, about six o'clock in the afternoon, died the Lord Irwin of the small pox.

Robert Tighe, Esquire, is appointed Consul of Elsinore in Denmark.

Yesterday morning three houses in Crown Court, near Crutched Friars, fell down, and five or six persons were dug out that died in that unhappy accident.

St. Albans, May 13. The member for this borough coming into the country for his health, was met in his way as far as Barnet, by the freemen and inhabitants of the best rank in this town, to congratulate him upon the success of his petition against Mr. Hale, who, by bribery and other indirect practices, procured himself to be elected for this place; and the name and notion of bribery is grown here so hateful to the lovers of the Queen and Church established, as that there is never a text of Scripture and verse as well known to them as the B of S would expect upon the most strict examination in an Ember-week.

A treaty of marriage is on foot between the Earl of Mar, one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, and the Marquis of Dorchester's daughter.

This day Mr. Conyers reported the Malt Bill with amendments, and a clause was offered and agreed to, for borrowing money on the South Sea stock, and the Bill ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Chapman reported the Bill for regulating the land forces with amendments, and the Bill was ordered to be engrossed.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, May 21—Last night's conversation could not but afford many useful remarks to me, and I thought it my duty to mention to your Lordship again my observations on that part of it which relates to the Dissenters.

First the Bill depending about the Dissenters' schools, which I fear will pass; it is true the conduct of the Dissenters has called for more than this, and this may remind them of a hint I gave them in "The Letter," whether they enjoyed no favours from her Majesty's bounty which they might not forfeit by their present behaviour. I doubt not, but their pretended friends, the Whigs, will give them up in this, as they did in the Occasional Bill; and which is worse, they will give themselves up too, rather than not carry on their party mischief; I pity them, but I cannot but recommend the interest of posterity to your compassion. As to their academies, if there had never been any, I know not but their interest had been as good, and fewer beggars and drones had been bred up for ministers among them. But for the

schools for common introduction of children, I think their loss will be irreparable. It is true that they will have schools still, they will be no more illegal than before, but it seems hard upon the nation in general to make laws which it will be necessary to break, like that of the late Abjuration Act in Scotland.

The Dissenters have now leisure to reflect upon their indolence and supine negligence, who at the Revolution, when they obtained the Toleration, took no thought for the education of their posterity or a succession of ministers to preach to them, neither of which would then have been denied them at that time.

I am preparing to put them in mind of their duty and interest in the present juncture, and if (as I hope) I have room to-morrow, when according to your command, I shall attend your Lordship, I purpose to give some account of it. I am in great want also to lay before you something about the "Mercator," and if it may please you to have that paper made more useful, I mean to more purposes than its single original design, I have some thoughts to lay before you on that head. I hope your Lordship is made acquainted that Mr. M——, who first set me upon that work, and undertook the support of it, has declined any consideration for it ever since Lady Day last, so that I perform it wholly without any appointment for it, or benefit by it; which I do singly, as I hope it is of service, and that it may be agreeable to you to have it continued; though my circumstances render it hard to me to do so because it is expensive to me. But I lay it all, and myself, at your Lordship's feet.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford: "Mr. Goldsmith."

Dr. George Hickes to [the Bishop of Bristol].

1714, May 22—The honourable relation your Lordship hath to the Queen, as her Lord Almoner, must bring much trouble upon you in several kinds by applications for her Majesty's favour; and the zeal I confess I have for Mrs. Elstob's great work, ready prepared for the press, makes me now troublesome to your Lordship in this humble and earnest request; that you would be pleased to acquaint her Majesty with the nature and design of it, and beg her Royal assistance in contributing towards the charges of the impression, for without her Majesty's royal bounty I fear it will never be published, which I cannot think of without great concern, that a work so much for the honour of our ancestors, and the language in which they made so many eloquent and powerful discourses, should lie in obscurity, and not see the light. I know not any work an antiquary can do more serviceable to the Church than this, which will show the faith and other chief doctrines of the English Saxon Church to be the same with ours, and perfectly answer that never ending question, Where was your Church before Luther?

I give your Lordship no particular account of this work, because I have sent the specimen of it to you with Mrs. Elstob's Homily on the Birthday of St. Gregory, dedicated to the Queen, her first essay of this kind, that you may see she is answerable to her undertaking, and the great respect I have for her as a scholar will not let me conceal her great modesty and humility from your Lordship, of which this is one proof, that though she found means five years ago to present her book to her Majesty, yet in all this time she never made application to any person to put her Majesty in remembrance of her or of her

present in order to receive some gracious testimony of her royal gracious acceptance and favour.

My Lord, if France boasts so much of her Scuderis and Daciers, and other nations of other learned women, who have been encouraged by their princes, why should not England encourage and honour her Elstob, whose learning, modesty, and other great virtues, as well as the singular skill she hath attained in our ancient literature and antiquities, make her worthy to receive some testimony of her Majesty's favour, whose most affectionate as well as dutiful subject I can assure your Lordship she is. My Lord, you see what an earnest and troublesome intercessor I am to your Lordship in behalf of Mrs. Elstob. But that you may more easily pardon me, and grant me the request I presume to ask for her, I promise your Lordship never to be troublesome to you in this kind any more.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, May 22—The Honourable Charles Bertie, son of the late Lord Great Chamberlain of England by the now Countess Dowager of Lindsey, a gentleman remarkable for his adhesion to the loyal principles of his noble ancestors, both by father and mother, and affection to her Majesty and the happy constitution in Church and State, was lately married to Mrs. Newcomen, of Lincoln, a lady of very remarkable estate of inheritance, as well as great virtue, honour, and worth, to the very great satisfaction of his mother.

A treaty of marriage is on foot between Sir Robert Furnese, Baronet, and the Lord Rockingham's daughter.

By the Dutch post this day arrived, we have advice that the Baron de Gerstorff, Minister of King Augustus at the Hague, has notified to the States General the peace concluded between his Master and the Turks. It was signed the sixteenth of April at Constantinople, but the Polish Minister is very silent upon the Articles. He says however that the Porte departs from their pretensions to Camisnec and Ukrania—that no mention is made of the new fortification at Choczim —that the Polish Minister has ratified what is done in relation to Poland in the treaty with the Czar, that if the Porte is disposed to send home the King of Sweden, they may treat with Polish commissaries about his passage through Poland.

Yesterday a yacht was ordered for Holland to bring over Mr. Harley.

On Thursday last, at seven in the evening, the Duke of Beaufort was so ill in the country of a cold that he was speechless.

By the Paris letter of May 30, it is advised that Monseigneur Orry, in a conference he had with a deputy of Barcelona, offered the rebels a general amnesty, but with all that they should expect no mercy hereafter. The deputy referred himself to the magistracy for an answer, and it was—that they know not Monseigneur Orry, but if the King will send any officer to them, they will talk of an accommodation.

LORD PAGET to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, May 22. Drayton—Since in your letter of yesterday, you send me word that the Queen is determined not to give me what I ask now, I shall say no more on that subject, only observe that I

am convinced this must be owing to some ill offices that have been done me. I cannot therefore but be of opinion I am not to expect either protection or support at home, and consequently can hope for no credit in the place where I was told I was once intended to be sent. Now since it is made impossible for me to hope for any success there remains but one thing for me to ask, and that is to ask the Queen's leave to stay at home, for I shall make too mean, too despicable a figure abroad, when it shall be known I am so destitute of favour and friends at Court.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford: "Answered immediately."

ANTHONY MURRAY to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1714 [May 23-]June 2. Hanover—Tuesday last I had the honour to write a short letter to your Lordship, from this by the post. This is to have the honour to be presented to you by my son, in which I can freely with safety give you a full account of what passed on Sunday last, in the evening at Herren Hausen, between the Elector and your faithful servant. Having saluted his Electoral Highness, I made him your compliments, which he received with pleasure. I, knowing his temper, observed more plainly the satisfaction he had of your kindness to him. I told his Highness likewise that your Lordship desired me to acquaint him that my Lady Masham was also his sincere friend, with which he was likewise very well pleased.

I told the Elector that, observing in England the great confusion M. Schutz occasioned there, and the vast prejudice he did his Highness's interest, I took the freedom to write to your Lordship that I was confident Baron Schutz had gone beyond the instructions and commands of his Electoral Highness, his master, to which the Elector said, I was in the right, and that Schutz had not obeyed his orders. I assure you that Mr. Schutz smarts most justly for his disobedience to so good a master, and that he is entirely ruined. This was what passed during half an hour that I had the honour to speak with his Highness alone.

On Tuesday following I had a second opportunity to speak with his Highness, who began with me, asking what was the matter with the Duke of Argyll. I told him that her Majesty had been so gracious to him, as to add two considerable posts to what he formerly had during the late Ministry, which were Governor of the Castles of Edinburgh and Port Mahon, with the whole island of Minorca, and that he was *d'une humeur inquiète*. Having had the honour of being the first that gave the Elector the news of the happy change of the Ministry, the certainty of which I had almost four years ago from your Lordship, and knowing that it did not please his Highness at that time, I had a good occasion, by questions he asked me, to paint the late Ministry in their true colours. Among other things, I told him that the Duke of Marlborough was endeavouring to have a patent to be Generalissimo for life, my Lord Godolphin to be Great Treasurer for life, my Lord Wharton to be Vicè-King of Ireland, etc.; in which I told his Highness if they had succeeded, her Majesty was not only no more Queen, but they would have sold the powerful crowns and dominions of Great Britain.

His Highness asked me if it was certain that they endeavoured to have those great offices for life. I told him if I had not been sure of it, I would not have presumed to tell it him, and for a proof of it, the Earl of Oxford, now High Treasurer, saved her Majesty's most sacred person,

the nation's religion, their property and liberty, by your most prudent, faithful and happy foresight in acquainting her Majesty of the snares the late Ministry designed, which I used to the Elector as a "Tekmirion" of the truth of this affair of so great moment, of which his Highness knew nothing before.

As I had an occasion of speaking of the late Ministry, I was not wanting to serve your Lordship, and to give his Highness convincing arguments for the necessity of a peace, after a most tedious and expensive war, in which the charges were so much unequal to England's great disadvantage, and though that the peace was not perhaps so agreeable to his Highness as a Prince of the Empire, yet as hereditary and first Prince of the blood of Great Britain, he would look on the peace as most glorious, honourable, and profitable to Great Britain, and that the change of the Ministry which her Majesty happily made above three years ago, was the only thing necessary that remained to be done for her Majesty's safety, the nation's happiness, and the entire and perfect security of the succession in his Highness's illustrious house.

I told his Highness again of Baron Schutz's mismanagements, and that he frequented such company in England as were equally disagreeable to her Majesty and pernicious to his interest in caballing with those that would sacrifice their religion, their country, and liberty to the Pretender, providing they would gain anything by it.

I had the honour to be alone with the Elector, *tête à tête*, in Herrenhausen Garden above two hours, giving him a true relation of Great Britain, particularly in letting his Highness know that our most gracious Sovereign had already done everything that sovereignty and humanity were capable of in settling and confirming the succession of the Imperial and powerful crowns of Great Britain in his illustrious house.

Since I began this long letter, I have had another opportunity of speaking to the Elector, relating to English affairs, in which I observed that Mr. Bernsdorf's project by his Governor Robethon, at the instigation of our uneasy and restless faction in England, is laid aside. At the same time I told his Highness that after the Duke of Gloucester's death, his Majesty, King William, prayed your Lordship when you were Speaker of the House of Commons, to try the genius of the nation, that in case her Majesty did not leave heirs of her body they would be willing to settle the crowns of England and Ireland on the house of Hanover, as the next Protestant heirs; and at your return to Court, you told his Majesty that you observed that the nation generally inclined to it. I told his Highness that the original foundation of that Act was owing to your Lordship, and that that most glorious Act of Parliament was made when you were Speaker of the House of Commons, and that you have that happy Act of Parliament painted under your picture as being the principal Act that passed during your time of being Speaker. His Highness told me he remembered I told him so several years ago. I added that your Lordship had still continued in the same sentiments, being for the advantage of our religion and country, and consequently for his interest.

I now observe that if you think fit, it would be necessary for me to have a character here, with your instructions as occasion offers, which will add weight and authority to what I say to the Elector for her Majesty's service and your interest. Though I have here troubled your Lordship with a very long letter, yet I shall leave the rest to my son to acquaint you more fully with what passes here. I must still add that when I spoke to the Elector, I perceived him much more your

friend than your Lordship told me at your house, which next to your own merit, is owing to your cousin, Mr. Harley; yet sometimes a faithful friend and servant like me will also be minded in telling the truth in your favours, as not being suspected of any partiality, by having the honour of being your kinsman, but as being only true to my trust.

W. Courtney to William Wenman, at Newcastle House.

1714, May 24—I have herewith sent you three pictures:—1. That without frame is of Sir Denzill Hollis, father of the first Earl of Clare. 2. The old man with the winter holly is Sir Gervas Hollis, a younger Lord. 3. The other is Francis Hollis, a younger son of the Earl, of whom there is this tradition, that being to dance in a mask at Whitehall before King Charles the First, he was practising by himself the night before in the gallery of Clare house, and in the midst of his dance there joined him an apparition of a fair lady, that danced out the whole dance with him, and disappeared. This he reported, with some concern, and died within a fortnight.

The two first are mentioned in a manuscript of the history of that family, lodged by me with my Lord Treasurer.

I will put no price on the pictures, neither do I think them valuable to strangers, therefore whatever my Lord shall please to send by you shall please me.

Postscript.—Pray let me know whether my Lady hath heard anything of the silk bedwork I mentioned in my last.

[Lord Harcourt to the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, May 24—As often as your Lordship will be pleased to honour me with your thoughts of what measures are fit to be pursued, you shall never find me wanting in my sincerest endeavours that they may take place. Though your Lordship on a very melancholy subject was pleased to give me but some dark hints, that must leave me under the necessity of groping for my way, till you have leisure fully to explain yourself to me, yet I think I fully comprehend the Bill for a Resumption in Scotland. The more I think of it, the worse I like it at present. I assure your Lordship I have not been negligent about it. I think immediate care ought to be taken to stop our friends in the House of Commons, lest they engage themselves too far. I am almost confident an effectual stop may be put to any further progress of that Bill, if your Lordship pleases. Let me desire you to lose no time in speaking to Lord Mar.

Lord Paget to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 24. Jermyn Street—Having told your Lordship I will ask no more about my affair, because I have had so many assurances as yet to no purpose, I must now insist, since you have often told me so, that the Queen shall tell me what she has determined in that matter, else I shall think myself disengaged from every promise I have made to you on this errand. And I do further insist that her Majesty shall, in the most authentic manner, give me leave to return home at Michaelmas next, or sooner, if I find myself not well received there. For how unaccountably easy soever I am in anything relating

to myself, I will not prejudice my family or bring them into such difficulties as they cannot get clear of. Your positive answer to these two points shall absolutely determine my going abroad or staying at home.

LORD PAGET to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, May 25—I have all the respect imaginable for Mr. Secretary Bromley, but I do not see why I am to give him trouble in a matter that has hitherto been treated by your Lordship as if it had been your province; or do I apprehend (great as I must own the distance is between you and myself) I am less worth your speaking about now than I was till this day. Since therefore my reason for not going is because some things promised me are not thought fit to be performed, your Lordship will be the most proper person to tell him this, because you can best tell why those promises are not complied with. I have always owned myself and acted the part of your friend and servant, but if you think fit to disown me in the former capacity I shall not be impertinent enough to offer the latter, and your last letter plainly tells me if I expect returns upon either of those claims, I must not wait at your door for them; being therefore in so kind a manner put adrift I will only acknowledge your favour and subscribe myself, &c.

LORD PAGET to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, May 25. Jermyn Street—Your Lordship of last night has amazed me as much as any of mine could as you say surprise your Lordship, and therefore has as effectually cured me of making any sort of promises as I have, to use your own words, "cured you from meddling out of your province and in other people's business." In the first place it is news to me that this matter was out of your province; I wish you had told me so at the beginning, and had referred me to the person in whose province it was to have discoursed it. I am sure I insist upon less now than was promised me by your Lordship, for I was told I needed not doubt but the title would be given me before I went. Of late I have been told that was not to be done,, and I have so far waived that in my last letter, that I only insisted the Queen herself should please to tell me when it should be done with convenience to her affairs, though, as your Lordship knows, 'twas promised me twelve months ago; and your Lordship in a letter, dated August last, assured me it should be immediately done.

I therefore entreat your Lordship that since you did without my knowledge name me for this service to Hanover, you will please to go but as far out of your province to excuse me to her Majesty, which I doubt not but you can do without bringing me under her displeasure. I am as much as your Lordship can desire or expect. Yours, &c.

DR. WILLIAM AYERST to [THOMAS] HARLEY.

1714, [May 26-]June 5, N.S. Hague—Mr. Elcock, the messenger, passed through this place on his way to Hanover to fetch (say the people here) the Duke of Cambridge post to England.

Her Majesty has appointed me Secretary of the Embassy at Utrecht and here, which, though it can be no news to you, I mention in order to return you my most grateful thanks for the share you have had in procuring me that honour.

Dr. George Hickes to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 29—At Mrs. Elstob's request, I wrote to my Lord Bishop of Bristol in behalf of her great and useful work, which with incredible industry she hath prepared for the press, beseeching his Lordship to give her Majesty (whom God long preserve) an account of it, and to beg her royal bounty towards the printing of it, without which it will never be printed. Her Majesty gave his Lordship a very gracious answer to his request, and said she would speak to your Lordship, which occasions me now to trouble you with my humble petition, that you would be pleased to second the Bishop in the behalf of that learned, ingenious, diligent, and most modest gentlewoman, of whose attainments in the Septentrional literature and antiquities I would not in justice to her be sparing, if I thought you were altogether a stranger to her character and worth. That you may more easily forgive the trouble and presumption of this application, give me leave to tell you that she is my Saxon mistress, for whom I have no small respect [*torn*], at my instance she undertook the [*torn*] work, which had I been able, I would have undertaken myself for the honour of our ancestors, the cause and interests of truth, and the services of the Church. I write half blind, and dosed with laudanum to support me in my fresh pains, but in pains or in ease, in sickness or in health, I never forget to pray for you.

Lord Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, May 29—The Land tax and the Malt are passed, and the Bill of Schism is at the door; if I am any judge of opportunities, your enemies have thrown such a game into your hands as never happened to any man before, and is the peculiar happiness of my Lord Oxford. I beg you to make use of this conjuncture, which is most favourable, too, in other respects, to save your country. Allow me to wait upon you, and explain my thoughts to you upon this occasion. If you will name the time when you will be at St. James', I will attend you, and come disposed to join in any measures you shall direct, or prepared to offer such a scheme as may save this Kingdom from distraction and ruin.

News Letter.

1714, May 29—The business of Stone the bookbinder comes on next Monday, he having been formerly bound over for printing and publishing a pamphlet called "Some queries relating to the Pretender." He submits to the judgment of the Court, and will, it is thought, be sentenced to stand in the pillory.

On Monday, in the evening, the Marquis de Trivié, Ambassador from the King of Sicily, has his public audience of her Majesty at St. James's.

The Commissioners are appointed to go to Dunkirk in order to view the same, and that if anything be wanting in the demolition they are to see the same effectually done. The names of them are—William Lee, Esquire, Captain Kirton, and Captain Roffee, and they design to set sail this day for that place.

They write from the Hague of June 5 that the Dutch resident at Petersburg had sent their High Mightinesses a letter of the fifth

of May—that the ice being thawed, the Czar was hastening to sea with his fleet.

From Stockholm of the 19th it was advised that the Swedish fleet was sailed in quest of the Czar's, which last had about twelve thousand landsmen on board, and some merchants of Amsterdam have letters from Stockholm of May 24 which agree that the Swedes had gained an entire victory over the Muscovites, and had cooped up their fleet in a corner, whence it was impossible one of them should escape, and waited only for the arrival of some bomb vessels to set them on fire. This has put the Prince Kurakin into a great consternation, and may alter the face of affairs in favour of the brave Swedes.

Monsieur Goslinga, one of the States General's Ambassadors Extraordinary in France, is expected back, and Monsieur du Buys is to continue there as Ambassador in ordinary.

This day Doctor Biss preached before the Commons and the Bishop of Chester before the Lords.

ARTHUR MOORE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1714, May]—Mr. Lawless has shewn me a letter from the Duke d'Osuna, dated last Friday, at Utrecht, that they had agreed the Treaty of Commerce, which would be signed the next day, and not sent first to Madrid, in regard they found the finishing the peace would incline her Majesty to give them speedy and effectual assistance. He hopes the next messenger will bring an account of the ratification of the peace between Great Britain and Spain.

I hope you will permit me to attend you about one to-morrow, as we are to meet in the afternoon upon the affair of the South Sea Company, and to take your directions in some matters I received in command this day from Lord Bolingbroke.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, June 1. London—For two or three days last between two and three hundred shoemakers, journeymen, &c., went in a body to Westminster, and yesterday upwards of twelve hundred, to petition Parliament, setting forth in the said petition, that to their great disappointment they find their trade almost ruined; that their masters who formerly employed a dozen men can hardly now find work for three, whereby multitudes are in a starving condition, which is entirely owing to the drawback of the duties on leather exported, which most evidently cuts off the major part of her Majesty's revenue, and causes large quantities of leather to be exported, and whereas in time past great quantities of shoes and boots were exported, and now only the leather unwrought, this drawback, if continued, does not only deprive this nation of that manufacture, but may inevitably reduce several thousands of poor families, who might otherwise support themselves by their industry.

Our private letter from the Hague of June 8 neither confirms nor contradicts the news of the Swedish victory over the Muscovite fleet. It gives us, however, some light into the propositions made at the Court of Berlin by the Swedish general Spar, viz., that Stettin and its territory shall be yielded in full property to his Prussian Majesty, provided he will act with thirty thousand men, that he shall have

subsidies paid him by England and France, that they shall be joined by twenty thousand Swedes and Holsteiners, by some others of another power, it is supposed the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel; and notwithstanding King Augustus denies it, men will have it that he has privately made his peace with Sweden, and will join the others with twenty thousand Saxons, that the said shall march together to dislodge the Czar from Livonia and Ingermerland, &c., and that England and France will send a squadron into the Baltic of sufficient force to stop the progress of the Dane.

The Paris letter of June 9 brings that the Czar offers to make peace with Sweden and restore all his conquests if the King will marry the Princess of Muscovy, widow of the late Duke of Courland.

The States General offer to buy of the Emperor the Principality of Liége, and to maintain the Popish religion as now.

The King of Spain leaves the peace with Holland and Portugal to his grandfather.

The Emperor has written a very kind letter to the Chevalier de St. George.

A ship is arrived at Port Louis from America, valued at three millions of florins.

Mrs. Dela Manley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, June 3—In obedience to your commands, when I had the honour of waiting on you three weeks ago, I presume to send this letter by Mr. Barber the printer, at whose house I lodge.

I had likewise the honour of a note written in your Lordship's own hand, some months after my sufferings and imprisonment, by order of the late Ministry (for several things I had writ which they suspected to have reflected on them and their principles, and were then thought to have done the first public service to the present cause, but being at that time in the country to recover my health, which was very much disordered by my fears and the hardships I received, I could not possibly attend your Lordship.

I have since endeavoured to make myself as useful as my ill state of health would give me leave, by writing several little pamphlets and papers, of which, if I am rightly informed, some have not been disapproved by your Lordship, and the world.

Upon these accounts, and the promises Mr. Barber was ordered to bring me from a number of great men who were called, the Society for rewarding of merit, I had hopes that my poor endeavours to do service might have given me some mark of your Lordship's favour; particularly I was assured that my Lord Masham and Sir William Windham, two of the Society, were commissioned by the rest to desire in their names that your Lordship would send me a hundred pounds, with assurances at the same time of their further favour. I have been likewise informed that your Lordship agreed to their request, and that my Lord Harley engaged to put you in mind of it.

I shall not trouble you with a tedious account of what I have suffered under those persecutions, or by the consequences of them ever since both upon my health and circumstances. The little I had left of my own, or received from the generosity of some very few friends, has been exhausted by remedies and physicians; and therefore, if I have no merit from myself by endeavouring to serve the cause, I at least have some by suffering by it.

I shall pretend to use no arguments for moving your compassion, your generosity, or your justice; your own head and heart are able to furnish you with infinitely better. I have heard that those who know your Lordship best affirm you to excel in liberality and good nature. These are the qualities in your Lordship which I now appeal to, and I should be easy under my first appeal, if among the crowd of more importunate, more befriended, and, perhaps, more deserving petitioners, I were not in danger to be forgot. In which case I have nothing left, but to wait with resignation till it shall please God to put a period to my unfortunate life.

News Letter.

1714, June 3—That it may be known how industrious the Presbyterians are to corrupt children from the principles of the Church of England by instructing them in the Assembly's Catechism at Mr. Ratcliff's meeting-house at the lower end of Salisbury Street in Rotherhithe:—every Monday morning children are taught the said Catechism, and for their encouragement, every one that comes to be instructed receives a penny from the said Mr. Ratcliff, by which means great multitudes of poor people send their children to be instructed, purely for the sake of the penny.

The audience of the Ambassador from the King of Sicily is put off. We cannot learn when it will be.

Mr. Stone was to be sentenced on last Monday, but it is put off to Saturday next.

The Earl of Clarendon designs to set out for Hanover this day s'nnight.

Yesterday the Commons (who being informed that a crowd of people got together in a riotous and tumultuous manner in the Palace Yard, Westminster Hall, and passages to the House) ordered that the Sheriffs of London and Westminster do take care to disperse any disorder, the assembly of persons crowding to the Palace Yard, &c., and to prevent any tumultuous resort for the future.

The Duke of Beaufort, in his last Will and Testament, has made his Duchess sole executrix. Mr. James Bertie and two other gentlemen are appointed to take care of his two sons, but to have recourse at any time to the Duke of Ormond if anything of difficulty arises.

The House took into consideration the report of the election for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, and the resolutions, viz., that Mr. Harvey, Mr. Marryot, and Sir Thomas Hardy are duly elected, to which the House agreed. Yeas, one hundred and forty-five. Noes, eighty-nine. When the question was put whether Betts, &c., the sitting members, were duly elected. Noes, one hundred and thirty-seven. Yeas, one hundred and two.

Viscount Bolingbroke to the Lord Treasurer.

1714, June 3. Whitehall—Mr. Moore has been this morning with me, and has put into my hands a paper, which he calls, I think not improperly, a charge upon me.

The articles contained in it are such as, among others of equal consequence, I have some time since put into writing; many of which I have frequently mentioned in Council, and all of which I intended to have spoken to your Lordship more particularly upon.

Hitherto I have delayed the latter, in hopes the unfortunate and unreasonable ferment, which has been amongst us, would at least have subsided so far as to have given opportunity, with spirit, and in some method or other to have closed that work, which can only be profitable to the nation, and of credit to us who have carried it on, by the use that is made of what has been already done. I am so much affected with this consideration, and think myself, by all manner of ties so much obliged to perform my part, that however I am to be used for the future, or whatever happens afterwards, I will employ myself with all imaginable cheerfulness, application, and zeal, to set the advantages gained in a proper and sure way of improvement, and to wind up those parts of business which will otherwise unravel, and bring greater reproach upon us than any of us have yet deserved, however we may in our turns have been loaded by our enemies, or by one another.

My papers are in order, and the several points shall be stated to the Lords of the Council as their meetings give me opportunity of doing; but I submit to your Lordship whether you will not think that some of them should be previously considered by you, and ripened, and digested by your direction, as I have always desired they should be. I am ready to take any method you prescribe. I have neither power nor capacity to act alone in matters of this importance, and if I had both, I know too well the order and subordination which is essential to government, to attempt any such thing.

The accounts which I receive from Sir James Wisbart, concerning the state of trade in Spain, require some speedy and effectual measures to be taken. I do not know whether the nature of them is not too nice to have them communicated in the ordinary form to the Board of Trade.

The Committee sits this evening at my office, where I shall be ready to receive your Lordship's orders.

N. Chevalier to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, June [3-]14, N.S. Utrecht—About a work upon which he is engaged on the Congress at Utrecht, in which will be inserted the portraits of all the Kings, Queens, and Princes, and their ambassadors who were there. This would be imperfect without that of Queen Anne, and as he has already been honoured with fifty other portraits, he hopes that Lord Oxford will be able to procure for him this particular addition.

Desires also his Lordship's patronage and assistance in producing a medallic history of Queen Anne, which he had ready for the press. By the death of King William he had lost two thousand livres sterling, his Majesty had promised to pay him for the medallic history of his reign. *French.*

The Earl of Breadalbane to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, June 5. Edinburgh—I arrived here last night, and find all affairs relating to the public much as I left them. The bill concerning the Bishops' rents was the subject of expectation, and so is the bill for the Militia. I entreat you to dispatch Captain Ogilvie; he will be of special service to her Majesty. I go to the

Highlands this day, and from thence shall give you accounts of the disposition there in her Majesty's service, which I doubt not but will be very well.

ROBERT WALPOLE to the LORD TREASURER.

1714, June 7—On behalf of Mr. Hare, collector of customs at Lynn, who had suffered a long time under a very hard and tedious prosecution upon some supposed mismanagements in his office.

JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, June 8. Petty France, Westminster—Enclosing a letter from Amsterdam signed "Wilkins," about the printing of Chamberlayne's Collections of the Lord's Prayer, printed in many languages (*see p. ante*), which work he found could be printed much better and cheaper at Amsterdam than at Utrecht. Utrecht had not letters for half the languages in which these prayers were written, and had no engraver; but Amsterdam had most of all that were to be had anywhere in Europe, and, which is wonderful, in one man's keeping, and the characters are to be engraven by a very skilful man, de Lerven, who has done the Chinese Lord's Prayer. Wilkins had likewise been with booksellers at Utrecht and Amsterdam, but found none willing to be at the expense of printing or going halves with Chamberlayne. It will be necessary, therefore, that some money should be advanced to Wilkins, that he might pay the printers weekly, as the buying of paper, which must be the beginning of all, would exhaust the greatest part of his little substance.

Wilkins adds that amongst the learned, Prof. Reland was going to print his brother's *Fasti Consulares*, Burman is printing Ovid. At Leyden Penzonii was printing Pomponius Mela, Gronorius? was busy with Herodotus. At the Hague the famous civilian, Mr. Cunningham, was printing *Anti-Bentlejanum Horatium; &c., &c.* Was yesterday above three hours in Père Quesnel's company, and had a great deal of talk *de Primata Papæ, &c.*; Quesnel lived with four very great scholars, *Pères de l'Oratoire* of Paris, in a house of Prince Gracht, and had so charmed Wilkins with his very good company that he wished all Papists were like him. Quesnel was nearly seventy years old, and had a free and easy way of shaking off prejudices established by Popes and Councils.

If Lord Harwich and Holland designed to travel, Wilkins asks if he could not be engaged in his company, as the recommendations of himself elsewhere by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Ely had apparently been fruitless. Failing these he would reckon himself very happy to go to Vienna as secretary with an English ambassador.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, June 8—A warrant is passed the Privy Seal appointing the Earl of Clarendon's allowance for going to the Court of Hanover 50*l.* for his equipage and 5*l.* a day.

Doctor Clark, Minister of St. James's Church, Piccadilly, is turned out from being chaplain to her Majesty, he having written several tracts not becoming his cloth, particularly relating to the Trinity.

Mr. John Stone, having been convicted of printing and publishing a scandalous and seditious libel entitled "Seasonable queries," relating

to the birthright of a certain person, was last Saturday sentenced to stand in the pillory at Charing Cross as this day, and to-morrow at the Royal Exchange, six months' imprisonment, and fined twenty nobles.

They write from the Hague of June 15 that they wait with impatience for the next letters from Sweden, because those from Petersburg of May 18 said the Czar was busy in order to put to sea forthwith, the ships falling down the river as fast as they are laden. There was yet a great deal of ice in the river, nevertheless the Prince Kurakin says he is afraid the Swedes destroying the eighty vessels near Abo will hinder the Czar's descent.

The four Dutch ships which the States reclaim proved laden with ammunition, bought by that Prince at Amsterdam, so will never be returned.

It is feared the attempt to procure peace in the North will prove ineffectual.

This evening the Sicilian Ambassador had public audience of her Majesty.

JOHN GAY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, June 10—Your Lordship's continued goodness towards me makes me presume to remind you of your Shepherd's petition. My Lord Clarendon tells me he sends his things down the water to-morrow, and embarks on Saturday. The time to provide myself is very short, but I submit myself entirely to your Lordship's will and pleasure, and now attend your commands.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, June 10. London—The letter from the Hague says Prince Kurakin has heard with joy that the *Pearl*, a man-of-war he lately bought at Amsterdam, was safely arrived at Revel. He has gone backwards and forwards so often to that city on purpose indeed to buy ships and ammunition, and after all the clamour of the Dutch merchants against the Swedes' Admiral, it is certain that the ships by him taken were laden with ammunition bought by Prince Kurakin in Amsterdam for the use of the Muscovites. The Czar had been in tears for Prince Menzikoff, who had received extreme unction, but three days afterwards was much better and likely to recover. His Czarish Majesty was not without concern also for his son, and his daughter-in-law, who is not yet brought to bed, but grows daily weaker and weaker, and is judged in great danger.

Dublin, June 1—This night a proclamation was sent to the collectors and waiters of all our seaports in the country, requiring them to search all men that go without licence to France, and all masters of ships or boats that take them in, and to require all Justices of Peace to aid and assist them therein, and if any who are listed will discover who listed them, they shall have fifty pounds reward and their pardon.

This day our Sheriffs were called at the Queen's Bench, and not appearing, they were again fined.

There having been a malicious report that the Marquis de Trivié, Ambassador from the King of Sicily, would deliver in a declaration of claim in behalf of his master's son, to succeed her Majesty after her demise, the said Ambassador declares it is altogether false.

We hear the Bishop of London designs to suspend Doctor Clark *ab officio*.

ARTHUR MOORE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, June 12—By a letter received yesterday from the Hague I find Sir P. Lawless in the utmost distraction that your letters to the Princess d'Ursini and Signor Grimaldi are not yet come to him, without which letters he apprehends himself in the greatest danger of incurring the displeasure of the Spanish Court, and particularly of the King, for leaving this kingdom without orders, in which case I must say he is the most unfortunate gentleman that was ever sent on a message. He hopes that you will preserve the good opinion of that Court towards him by writing those letters to be sent by Tuesday's post.

[LORD HARCOURT to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1714, June 13—My wife tells me one of the weighing porters died on Friday night; he was coachman to the Lady Godolphin. My wife thinks my butler as well qualified for that post as the Lady Godolphin's coachman, and desires the favour of your Lordship to give it to him. His name is Samuel Scot; he has the honour of being known to Mr. Hagly.

Your Lordship having last night and several other times of late told me we are all running mad, I wait with patience till you will tell me whether I am included in the number, what I have done, or which is the readiest way of retrieving what is past, if our state be not incurable. If I err for want of information it is your Lordship's fault more than mine.

MRS. DELA MANLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, June 14—Having been out of town for some time, I was wholly unacquainted with your Lordship's goodness to me, till yesterday Mr. Barber took an opportunity to ride over, and put into my hands a bill of fifty pounds from your Lordship, with commands of secrecy, which I shall punctually obey.

This supply is so noble, so seasonable, and directed to make me easy under the pressure of my misfortunes, that I wish for nothing more than some opportunity by which I may show my gratitude, and the respect and value I have for your Lordship's favour.

G. MURRAY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, June 16. London—My father directs me to acquaint you that as he has been invited to go to Pyrmont with the Elector, he will have opportunities of entertaining him with English affairs. He therefore orders me to desire you to send him your commands, which will always be the means to strengthen your interest with the Elector. He tells me that Ropeton is the cause why many scandalous reflections are daily spread about that Court, injurious to the Queen and Ministry, particularly that the Queen's last letter to the Electress was the cause of her death.

My father has told the Elector that it was evident that his ministers must be great strangers to the affairs of Great Britain and to what was for his interest, that they could be prevailed upon by a discontented faction at home to advise the Electress to order Baron Shutz to demand a writ for the Duke of Cambridge at the time

and in the manner he did; that there were already too many turbulent spirits in the nation, and that such measures were the sure means to ruin his Electoral Highness' interest here. At the same time he advised the Elector for the future to communicate to him such things of moment as were proposed to him, relating to English affairs, which the Elector was pleased to assure him he would.

Now that the Electress is dead, the Elector will concern himself more directly in this nation's affairs than hitherto he has done; I therefore submit to your great wisdom to give my father such further necessary orders as you shall judge most proper.

News Letter.

1714, June 17. London—Dublin, June 10. On Monday last the Earl of Drogheda died. He is succeeded in honour and estate by his grandson (whose father, the Lord Moore, died about a month ago) who is fourteen years of age.

The three Lords Justices were sworn on Monday at the Castle, after which the great guns were fired, bells rung, and the evening concluded with bonfires at every loyal citizen's door, to the great mortification of all our factious clan. The next day about noon Sir Samuel Cook, our Lord Mayor, and his four honest Aldermen, with all our loyal masters and wardens, and numbers of several Corporations went to the Castle to wait on their Excellencies, at which time our Lord Mayor made a very handsome speech, congratulating their Excellencies on the high stations which her Majesty had been pleased to put them in, assuring them of his steady adherence in the support of his Queen's prerogative, and his utmost endeavours to suppress faction, &c. In the afternoon the Vice-Provost, Fellows and Scholars of our Colleges went to wait on their Excellencies, when the Reverend Mr. Kearney, one of the Fellows, made an excellent and learned speech.

A patent is passing the seals appointing John Bennet, of the Middle Temple, Esquire, to be Clerk of the Custodies in the room of Thomas Edwards, Esquire, who has resigned.

The Duke of Ormond is to be appointed Lord Lieutenant of the counties of Gloucester and Hampshire, and warden of the forest of Dean, during the minority of the Duke of Beaufort.

News Letter.

1714, June 19. London—Our private letter from the Hague adds that the Prussian Envoy there has presented a memorial to the States to the same purpose as another he had presented about a year ago. In that he had complained that the Dutch regiments of Craling in Nassau, Douglas, Wickers, and Henfel had marched through the upper quarter of Gelderland without leave, and without paying for their provisions. In this he complains that the regiment of Dragoons of Wassenaer has lately done the like, contrary to custom, and even to reason and justice—that the King of Prussia's troops never offered any such affront and injury to the States and their subjects, and therefore desires that a regulation may forthwith be made for the march of the troops on either side, and his Prussian Majesty satisfied for what is passed.

It appeared on Thursday last the following gentlemen had these numbers in order to be chosen Commissioners of the public accounts for the year ensuing. Mr. Lister, 267; Mr. Bulteel, 228; Sir William Barker, 214; Mr. H. Bertie, 210; Mr. Lockhart, 204; Mr. Elford, 189; Mr. Blackmore, 184; Mr. Lookwood, 164; Mr. Trevanion, 132; Mr. Hutchinson, 109; Mr. Archer, 75. The last named gentleman made no interest to be one, so the first seven are chosen.

Mr. Hare, Secretary to the Lord Viscount Bolingbroke, is made Chief Clerk and Sole Examiner in Chancery in Barbadoes, and Clerk of the Crown there, and Alexander Burnet, Esquire, is made Clerk of the Markets of that island.

Sir Henry St. John, father to the Lord Bolingbroke, is going to drink the waters at Aix-la-Chapelle, a yacht being ordered for him.

They write from Lisbon that the Queen of Portugal is brought to bed of a Prince.

They write from Dublin of the 10th that that day four men who were taken up for enlisting men for the Chevalier were arraigned at the Queen's Bench, being brought from the County Gaol, and to be tried the Saturday following by a County Jury.

From thence of the 12th, viz., Saturday last, we have advice that the four men, the names of two of them are Carrell and Fanel, were that day tried, but there being a flaw in the indictment, the further trial is put off till another time.

They write from Paris June 26 that the Duke of Berwick set out the 23rd to command the siege of Barcelona. The Marshal de Villars has been received into the French Academy, where he made a florid speech.

News Letter.

1714, June 22. London—They write from Dublin that on the 10th instant at night Mr. Secretary Dawson and three messengers were sent to seize E. Waters, the printer, for printing a libel against the Lord Lieutenant called "England's Eye, A Poem." Waters was gone fishing, but his papers, &c., were seized, as Mr. Dixon, the printer, was, for a scandalous ballad about Hanover called "'Tis time to come over, &c."

That one John Rily, Alexander Bourke, and Martin Carrol were tried the 15th instant for enlisting men for the service of the Chevalier, and were found guilty of high treason, upon the evidence of four persons, and are to be hanged, drawn, and quartered.

The Duke of Argyll has lately bought of the Earl of Dysart, Ham House, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, near Richmond, and gave 17,000*l.* for the same.

Our private letter from the Hague adds that the Dutch are overjoyed at the signing of their peace with Spain, and will soon reap the fruits thereof by pushing commerce, which their neighbours the English seem to have lost all notion of.

The French Minister has sent an express to answer the civility of a letter sent to him by a courier from Utrecht by the Dutch Plenipotentiaries.

The Secretary of Savoy is returned to the Hague from Utrecht *re infectâ*, having endeavoured to get his master acknowledged by the treaty last signed there.

Doctor John Bettesworth is made Judge of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, vacant by the death of Sir Charles Hedges, it being in the gift of that Archbishop.

Yesterday Doctor Henchman, who was one of the Counsel for Doctor Sacheverell at his trial, was made Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, which place became vacant by Sir Charles's death, and was in the gift of her Majesty. The following gentlemen were competitors for that place, viz., Sir Nathaniel Lloyd, Doctor Thomas Pask, Doctor William Stratham, &c.

Two proclamations were ordered in Council last night, one against the exportation of wool, and the other for the taking the Pretender with a reward of five thousand pounds.

Mr. Secretary Bromley has granted warrants to Messengers who were sent down to Dover, Gravesend, &c., for the taking up six persons supposed to be guilty of enlisting men for the service of the Pretender.

Yesterday Haywood, the Messenger, took up an out-pensioner of Chelsea College, for enlisting men for that service, and is committed to the Gatehouse (*sic*).

The Earl of Breadalbane to [the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, June 23. Taymouth—I wrote to you as soon as I arrived at Edinburgh entreating the dispatch of Captain Ogilvy as of very great service to her Majesty. I have had several of the chieftains of the clans with me since I came here and others have sent to me, to know what was done or to be done for them. I did return them such answers as I was allowed to do in general, assuring them of her Majesty's goodness and kindness, and also of your Lordship's kindness and sincerity of your friendship for them notwithstanding of endeavours used to persuade them to the contrary. I earnestly request their business may be dispatched and I authorised to say so, for I assure your Lordship that some persons are very active to influence that they will be disappointed. If that affair were finished past contradiction, and the Militia Bill and that of the Bishops' rents, your Lordship may undertake that this nation is secure for her Majesty's service, notwithstanding of anything that envious or prejudicial persons will assert, my endeavours shall not be wanting to serve her Majesty thereby to keep her free from any vexation and discouragements.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, June 23—Though I have not been able to pay my duty to your Lordship, as usual by reason of a lameness, which has long confined me, yet I could not refrain writing on the following occasions.

Though I go not abroad yet I find ever since the depending bill against the Dissenters, there has been a certain set of men, appointed no doubt, who make it their business among the Dissenters to talk in a new dialect, viz., that things are now coming to a crisis, that men had as good lose their lives as their liberties and their religion, that these were the only two things which made the Revolution; that there is a time when men can bear no longer; that we ought to resist such violence; that our children will be taken from us next, and put to Charity Schools; that we had better begin at first while we have some friends, and means to help ourselves than stay till we are quite ruined and till matters become irretrievable.

There is much more in the discourses of these men. I hope and believe my Lord that the main body of the Dissenters are wiser than to be influenced by such speeches to anything undutiful and unquiet, and if they should, which I should be very sorry for, I know it would end in their ruin.

But that there are some who would gladly bring them into some such snare, nay, though it were to their ruin, so it might but give some shock to the public tranquillity. This I make no doubt of, and therefore I thought it might not be improper to represent it to you.

[J. Digby to Lord Harley.]

1714, June 23. [Mansfield] Woodhouse—I should have given you the best account I am able of such part of your affairs as lies within the reach of my view or knowledge, had I not been pretty much confined since the death of Lady Wharton, my wife's mother, by some concerns of hers which would admit of no delay.

I have been once out with your hounds and notwithstanding the extreme heat and dryness of the weather we had a very fine chace that lasted above four hours, which is more than double the time than when the ground is cool and seasonable; and I hope you will see a great many such chaces in the forest of merry Sherwood. Your hounds are in good order, but too few in number to go through a summer's hunting, not being more than twenty couple; the late Duke of Newcastle never kept less than 30 or 35 couple.

Be pleased to let Lord Bathurst know I have been twice in his woods, and if there were not more of his tenants' horses than there are deer in his woods there would be little or no occasion for the complaints made to him. We could not find more than two brace of deer in all Scarcliffe Woods, which are above 500 acres.

News Letter.

1714, June 24. London—The Marquis of Dorchester is going to be married to the Earl of Portland's sister.

Colonel Bound is made Governor of Nova Britannia.

The Reverend Doctor Alston being dead, his Archdeaconry of Essex is given by the Bishop of London to Doctor Gouch.

Thomas Morphew, Esquire, of the Savoy, is made Provost-Marshal General of our forces employed and to be employed in the service.

Last Friday John Statham, Esquire, Member of Parliament for St. Michael in Cornwall, had the honour of knighthood conferred on him by her Majesty.

Doctor Alston's living is given to Doctor Cockburn.

On Monday morning Captain Deseir, a Frenchman, and Captain Patrick fought in St. James's Park, near the Parade. The last was run through, and died yesterday, and the other was committed to the Gatehouse.

The other day an out-pensioner of Chelsea College was taken into custody of Mr. Haywood, one of her Majesty's Messengers, being charged with enlisting men for the service of the Pretender, and committed to the Gatehouse, and on Tuesday last he was examined at Lord Bolingbroke's office, and confessed that one Captain Kelly employed him, who was lately committed on the same account to Deal Castle, and the said Haywood is sent down thither to bring him to town.

COLONEL HUGH PEARSON to LORD LEXINGTON.

1714, June 25. London—Complaining that he could not obtain payment of the charges which he incurred when he was sent home by Lord Lexington from Madrid to bring back the renunciation of King Philip.

W. BROMLEY, the Speaker, to the LORD TREASURER.

1714, June 26. Whitehall—I beg leave to send you the enclosed resolution of the House of Commons, thanking the Queen for offering a reward of 5,000*l.* for the apprehension of the Pretender on his landing in any part of her dominions. The Queen having commanded me to consult your Lordship upon the answer to be given to it, you will be pleased to let me know when I may wait upon you for it.

Enclosure.

A copy of the above resolution, dated Thursday, 24 June, 1714.

JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, June 26. Petty France, Westminster—I humbly beg you to read these few lines and to take the writer of them into your protection, for if he suffers it will be on account of his zeal for your honour.

At our Westminster Sessions now depending, some discourse being stirred upon occasion of the glorious vote of the House of Commons, I and some of my brethren promoted your health, and whilst it went about, some mention happened to be made of Lord Bolingbroke, upon which I asked Sir Edm. Prideaux if he had not lately committed to Bridewell a slut that had laid a bastard to his Lordship, and who goes by the name of Lady B. in that place, being hardly known otherwise. Whereupon Sir Edmund charged me with speaking disrespectfully of his Lordship, &c. This I protest was all that was said by me or anybody else that I heard concerning that noble lord, as Mr. Medlicote, Mr. Offley, Mr. Rider, Col. Con and many others can attest on oath if required; and yet Sir E. Prideaux threatens to make me feel the indignation of his Lordship and to have me turned out of the commission.

E. LADY ORKNEY to [LADY HARRIET HARLEY].

[1714, June?]—I opened your letter Madam with a great deal of pleasure, knowing it came from you, and it increased as I read of the time with me, you and my Lady Dupplin thought passed so agreeable as to mention it. I do assure your Ladyship the weather could not make me think of London in long days, but your being there makes me leave it with regret. I don't make you a compliment to say you are wanted at Windsor, for after the respectful thoughts seeing the Queen gives there is nothing but ceremony, no manner of conversation! my Lady Burlington in good earnest and imitated in perfection; the Duke of Somerset sitting at a little table by, that the ladies and most of them his own daughters might have room, without one bit of meat upon it till the other table had done; the Duke of St. Albans a jesting, Lord Arran sleeping, my Lord Burlington eating with his eyes. We played after dinner, drank tea, bowed extremely and so returned. Reflection, how vain is ambition if these are the ornaments of Courts;

and upon serious consideration what is valuable but friendship maintained by true worth, and how hard is that to be found uninterrupted by circumstances or malice. If I let myself run as far as my experience can lead me, I shall make you hate the world too early.

Postscript.—I wish it were on my Lord Dupplin's and my Lord Harley's way to return by Clevedon.

Endorsed by Lady H. Harley.—"The copy of a letter I received from Lady Orkney."

THE EARL OF OXFORD'S ACCOUNT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

1714, June 6-July 1—Papers in Lord Oxford's handwriting, of which the first is headed:—

June 6, 1714. A very brief account of the state of her Majesty's affairs since August, 1710, to this time.

August 8, 1710. Her Majesty was pleased to alter the Treasury, and two days after a new commission was appointed wherein Robert Harley by her Majesty's great favour was made Chancellor of the Exchequer. The state of affairs, both at home and abroad, cannot but be remembered. The condition of the Treasury was drawn up in a large representation, and delivered to her Majesty; it will be needless to touch more than the following few heads:—

The army was in arrear, all the ready money gone, the Lottery not full, the bank had refused to lend Lord G[odolphin] 100,000*l.*

The civil list in debt 500,000*l.*; the expense exceeded the income above 90,000*l.* a year.

The navy and other branches of service had 11,000,000*l.*, which made the price of everything (increase) 100 to 200 per cent.

Under this commission the whole provision for the army was immediately provided for.

Though the opposition from every office, which was full of those who were enemies to the change of the ministry ["Queen's servants" *in the margin*], yet it was impossible as well as inadvisable to remove them, but by degrees.

A new Parliament is called which sat November 27, 1710, and the Queen's speech November 29.

The funds were all prepared for this year's supply, and also a project for paying above 9,000,000*l.* of debt. This was kept concealed in the breasts of Robert Harley and two more to prevent the abuses which would have been made, by buying stock, &c.; this gave great offence to some of his fellow-servants, as they told him that he might have made a fortune, &c.

About this time was set on foot the unhappy Canada expedition, to the meeting about which Robert Harley avoided coming, and gave Lord Rochester his reasons, as he desired him after to be a means to the Queen to hinder that expedition.

The beginning of February, 1710[-11], there began to be a separation in the House of Commons, and Mr. Secretary St. John began listing a party, and set up for governing the House. Upon this a meeting at dinner was appointed, where the Duke of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Rochester, Lord Dartmouth, Earl Poulett, Robert Harley and others preventing any such attempts, in which Lord Rochester took much pains. This was the last time Robert Harley was ever invited to Mr. Secretary's house.

Presently after Robert Harley fell ill of a fever, and upon his first coming abroad, he met with that misfortune on March 8. What designs were laid and contrivances carried on during his life's being despaired of are better forgotten than mentioned.

In the end of May, her Majesty conferred undeserved honour upon Robert Harley, and on the 29th made him Treasurer, a trust too great for him to struggle with.

June 4, 1711, three days after, Robert Harley being Treasurer, comes a demand for 28,036*l.* 5*s.* (all his and Lord Rochester's endeavours to stop the expedition had been fruitless) for clothes sent to Canada. The Treasurer sampled payment (with very good reason); upon this Mr. Secretary St. John came with much passion, as also Mr. [Arthur] Moore, who said it was hard he should be made the first example. This made me have some suspicion, but Mr. Secretary procured the Queen's positive pleasure to have it paid, as appears by his letters; and June 21 the Queen signed a warrant for it. But however the Treasurer took all the precaution he could to find out the truth, but the things being conveyed away, and no further light to be found. The 4 of July the (money?) was ordered, pursuant to the Queen's warrant. Upon the return from that expedition, it was discovered that the whole had cost but 7,000*l.*, and that 21,036*l.* 5*s.* was divided between them. I have borne the larger upon this because it was the only occasion for their anger; though it occasioned much more mischief, for those who had unjustly got this, being masters of the secret of the treaty of peace, laid it out upon stock, where was most lost?

June 12, 1711, the first session ended. From this time to the beginning of the next session, the time was spent in negotiating the peace, and the Treasurer had his hands full of reconciling or calming quarrels between Mr. Secretary St. John, Lord D[artmouth], and the now Lady Masham.

The second session began December 7, 1711. This was attended with great difficulties and dangers, and though the Dutch minister, M. Buys, came over with Prince Eugene and Bowers to treat yet the hopes given him here made him conceal those, and join with those who were for breaking the negociations for peace at any rate. Having got Lord Nottingham in, and being deceived in their expectations that the new managers would not be able to provide the supplies, when they found (themselves?) disappointed, then Bothmer's memorial was cooked up; the Dutch drawn in, the Emperor refractory.

These particulars made the Queen think it necessary to create some new Lords. Mr. Secretary St. John was sent to that if he would stay in the House of Commons, he should have a title, and not lose his rank, which was then explained *(sic)*.

This session ended June 21. Upon the rising thereof, Mr. Secretary St. John was created a Viscount. This caused a new ferment (?) because he was not an Earl, and it rose to a great height against Lady Masham, and everybody except the person who encouraged him, and yet spoke against it. The Treasurer did all he could to calm this, and (without any occasion) Lord Bolingbroke was permitted to go to Paris to please him.

In October following, there were knights of the garter made, which gave new occasion of discontent. And thus affairs continued with storm at home, and negotiations of peace abroad, but the ferment Bothmer's memorial had caused made it necessary that affairs in Hanover should

be set right; and Mr. Thomas Harley was thought proper to undertake that journey, in which he had so much success that all was quiet until the ill-conduct here gave room to their jealousies and place to their parties (?)

The peace being made, the third session began April 9, 1713, during which time a confederation was made against the Treasurer. It ended July 16*

This was the first opportunity there was for obtaining the payments of the debts on the Civil List, and this the Treasurer was obliged to keep a secret until it was accomplished, and to undergo all the clamour of people who were not paid, as he has done those since for retrenchments.

At the end of the Session, the Treasurer fell sick, and as soon as he was able to write, he wrote a large letter to Lord Bolingbroke, dated July 25, 1713. This was shown before sent to Lady Masham, who came to see him, and see the papers and the answer. Upon this the Treasurer judged it necessary to put everything into a steady measure before the new elections, and accordingly proposed to her Majesty a scheme, viz., Earl of Mar, Earl Findlater, Mr. Bromley, and Sir William Windham, Chancellor [of the Exchequer]. This angered my old acquaintance, Lord B——— and Lord Chancellor; the latter declared he would not put his seal to it. The first week in August, I acquainted her Majesty with this obstruction, which by consulting the Attorney-General was got over, though he has never spoken to Findlater since.

I told Lady Masham of the new scheme formed.

August 16. I had the Queen's leave to go into Cambridgeshire. After my return from thence, advantage was taken of my never enough to be lamented folly in mentioning to her Majesty the titles? I never did this to any one else except Lady Masham, and have kept my word never to speak of it since directly or indirectly, not to the nearest relation I had, but this was made my crime.

Before Christmas it pleased God the Queen had a fever. On her recovery at Christmas, I desired all the Queen's servants to , but Lord Chancellor told me that Lady Masham was angry.

June 15, 1714—The last paper ended with the second session of the last Parliament.

He (Bolingbroke) was promised that he should be a peer when the sessions rose, and the Queen had ordered his warrant for a viscount—which was to give him place, not only over the lords created, but over all the other barons (whereas he would have been next Lord Trevor)—and the title of Bolingbroke which belonged to others of his name. He fell into the utmost rage, which appeared in the most extravagant particulars, and the words. The Treasurer wished him both his titles, but nothing could appease a restless, ambitious man. His friends told him how much he was in the wrong, his flatterers and those who would use his folly and madness to other purposes, encouraged

* *Marginal note.*—Could not begin until May 10, 1713, offer of 200*l.* ready for every session, and be accused of delays when dispatch would have ruined them (*sic*).

him in his madness and his pretensions. His rage caused him to say and swear he would not take the title. After he had it he gave out it was only to take him out of the House of Commons, where his interest was too great. Full of himself and this vanity he continued raving and railing at the Queen, Lady Masham, R. H[arley], and every one else.

In this humour he contrived to be with every one until there happened to be an opportunity which R. H. hoped would quiet him. The negotiation of peace not going on so glibly, and some few things of no great importance remaining,* M. Torcy proposed a meeting with the Treasurer, but to please Lord B., it was to him. Upon his return this added new fuel to his vanity.

In October, there being a chapter of the Garter, he fell into the utmost rage about not being one; at the same time he ridiculed Lord Dartmouth's pretences, on the Duke of Hamilton's sad death. He was against the Duke of Shrewsbury going [to Ireland?], and yet would not go himself.

This brings us to the third session, which began April 4, 1713. In the beginning of this session, a combination was set on foot against the next Dukes of Shrewsbury, Argyll; Earls of Orrery, Ilay, Anglesey; Bolingbroke; Hanmer, &c.

During this session we met every Saturday, as before, every Thursday at R. H., his house, to consider about affairs. I offered to begin an attack if any one would follow—see the letter of July 25, 1713—but that was always avoided, to hinder me from quieting the French party, and being at their head, which they had reserved for themselves. During this interval, many times did I make up breaches, did I compose differences, arising from the unreasonable pride, affectation, and ill-manners of Lord B. He quarrelled with every one in their turn, and R. H. had the fate of reconcilers, to be at last their sacrifice [*in margin*—fall a sacrifice to both]; both unite against one who would make and keep peace.

During this session, 500,000*l.* was obtained to pay the Queen's debts, and that in such a manner as exposed R. H. to the hatred of his enemies; and [there] was some little merit in the time and manner of doing it, and [it] was what nobody before had thought upon; and yet he was forced to bear all the reproach of not paying when there was no money.

This session ended July 16. As soon as Mr. H. was able he wrote a letter—note, Lord A had owned that Lord B. had told him that he [Lord Oxford] was to have terms put upon him, and a junto; this he told Lady Masham, and the Queen, and showed Lady Masham his letter of July 25. Can any one suspect the Queen should be ignorant of this when it came to pass so many months after?

Now see the particulars of this letter and what are not performed.

It was now necessary to put in execution the scheme her Majesty had settled, viz., Mr. Bromley, secretary, to secure the Church party and the country; Lord Mar to ease the burden of Scotland, which Lord Bol. had to engross; and Lord Findlater to look to the administration of justice in the courts there, and to prevent their being overpowered by a faction, or those who had a majority in the session, &c. This immediately created a great flame, and destroyed their scheme.

* In the margin Lord Oxford writes:—"I was well, I would be better, I took physic, and died"; and "to please Lord B., without any reason he was sent to France."

Lord B. railed.
Lord Chancellor.
As to Sir William Windham, &c., see ?
One would not pass the seals, the other would quit, &c. Now were their conferences renewed, of which the Queen had notice, August 5.

July 1, 1714—The last paper ended with the last session of the last Parliament, which ended July 16, 1713; and with an account of what the Treasurer had done to set the Queen's affairs in a good foot, and to cure the jealousies if possible, amongst the Queen's servants. To this end the letter mentioned was written July 25, 1713, and an answer received to it July 27. Besides this the Treasurer made use of Mr. Moore and Col. Disney to calm Lord Bol., especially when he fell into those extravagancies. August 4, a fresh instalment when he saw Scotland taken out of his hands by the Earl of Mar, and Findlater's advancement, and the Church party by Mr. Bromley's. Then he practised to Sir William Windham to accept the chancellorship of the Exchequer's place as her Majesty will remember.

At this time Lord Anglesey went to Ireland, but declared that Lord Bol. invited him to a conference against the proposal, and to set up a junto for a good cause as the Whigs did for a bad one.

[Neither] Lord Chancellor nor Lord Bol. could be contented with the highest and most profitable places, but very restless, would suffer no one about them. He goes into the country very discontented, never summons any meetings of the Lords (but since complains of non-attendance); comes to Windsor from Ashdown Park.

August 6. The Queen came to Windsor. The Treasurer stayed there from the 15th to Tuesday the 18th, when her Majesty had the goodness to give him leave to go to Cambridgeshire upon a particular concern of his own, so that he was absent from August 18 until September 5.

September 16. The Treasurer was so unfortunate as to ask a favour of the Queen which was not agreeable to her Majesty to grant. After that day the Treasurer never opened his mouth of it, as he told the Queen and Lady Masham, and promised he would not, but left it to the Queen to do or not to do in her own way and manner and time, or not at all.

At this time the Countess of Sarcy was introduced to Windsor (where as she) she had advised Lady Masham told her it was a shame she was not provided for, nor of the Bedchamber, that had done so many great things.

At Lord Chancellor coming out of the (Committee), he asked me at Windsor, if no quarrel with Lady Masham—repeated it March 19.

The Duke of Shrewsbury to [Matthew Prior, in Paris].

1714, July 1. Kensington—The last days of a Parliament you will believe a very busy time, especially when the Lords' House have before them the consideration of the Spanish Treaty of Commerce, and great clamour is raised that our Spanish trade is much prejudiced by three articles sent ratified from Madrid, and agreed to here more prejudicial to us than those settled at Utrecht, what real ground there is for this complaint we shall soon see.

I have however taken opportunities to enquire from the Lord Treasurer and Lord Bolingbroke whether it is expected you should

still continue at Paris and find they are of opinion you should wait Mr. Ross's arrival, who is now in good health, and says he shall be ready to go when dispatched. As to the differences at our Court, they are no secret, and seem difficult to reconcile; but all considerations of this nature are postponed till the Parliament rises, and then we shall know her Majesty's pleasure.

I have not been wanting to represent your interests as you ought to expect from one who is sincerely your friend. Lord Treasurer speaks very kindly of you, but resolutions are so slow, that I will not defer my answer to your last of the 3rd July, N.S., to give you an account of them, lest my letter should be as long coming, as one you have many months expected.

As it shall always be my endeavour to preserve a good correspondence between the Courts of England and France; I think it my duty to inform you that the French have behaved themselves not well, and in my opinion not wisely in the recruiting their Irish troops in Ireland. I will suppose they have no ill design, but the clamour they have raised is so great, and the prejudice to her Majesty's affairs, both in England and Ireland, so notorious, that surely they ought to have put a stop more effectually to so unjustifiable a practice than they have done, and should punish those officers who so impudently have been committing treason against her Majesty in both these kingdoms; without saying more than the truth, I may affirm that in Ireland not less than 4 or 5,000 men have been listed, some pretend 50,000, with promise to serve the Pretender, and hopes given them they shall soon return triumphant to enjoy their ancient claims in Ireland. There are now between 60 and 70 in Dublin prisons, some are and the rest probably will be condemned for high treason upon proof of this crime. They were arrived at such an impudence that some weeks before I left Dublin, between 4 and 500 near that port were got together in order to embark, who were discovered and dispersed, and about 50 made prisoners. I would recommend to the French Ministers' consideration whether these practices do not give too just an alarm, and whether it be not for their interest as well as her Majesty's, to stop such proceedings. Let them not pretend it is not in their power, the authority of the King of France and the discipline of his officers is too well known to admit such an excuse.

This letter is so long, I have not time to make compliments either from the Duchess of Shrewsbury or myself, but hope you will always reckon upon our friendship, and believe me, Mrs. Prior's faithful humble servant.

P.S.—We have left Mrs. Touchet in Ireland married to Lord Blayney.

[Jonathan Swift,] Dean of St. Patrick's, to the Earl of Oxford.

1714, July 3—When I was with you, I have said more than once that I would never allow quality or station make any real difference between men. Being now absent and forgotten, I have changed my mind. You have a thousand people who can pretend they love you, with as much appearance of sincerity as I, so that according to common justice I can have but a thousandth part in return of what I give. And this difference is wholly owing to your station. And the misfortune is still the greater, because I always loved you just so much the worse for your station. For in your public capacity you have often angered me to the heart, but as a private man never once. So that if I only

looked towards myself I could wish you a private man to-morrow. For I have nothing to ask, at least nothing that you will give, which is the same thing, and then you would see whether I should not with much more willingness attend you in a retirement, whenever you pleased to give me leave, than ever I did at London or Windsor. From these sentiments I will never write to you (if I can help it) otherwise than as to a private person, nor allow myself to have been obliged by you in any other capacity. The memory of one great instance of your candour and justice I will carry to my grave, that having been in a manner domestic with you for almost four years, it was never in the power of any public or concealed enemy, to make you think ill of me, though malice and envy were often employed to that end. If I live, posterity shall know that and more, which though you, and somebody that shall be nameless, seem to value less than I could wish, is all the return I can make you. Will you give me leave to say how I would desire to stand in your memory; as one who was truly sensible of the honour you did him, though he was too proud to be vain upon it. As one who was neither assuming, officious, nor teasing, who never wilfully misrepresented persons or facts to you, nor consulted his passions when he gave a character, and lastly, as one whose indiscretions proceeded altogether from a weak head, and not an ill heart, I will add one thing more, which is the highest compliment I can make, that I never was afraid of offending you, nor am now in any pain for the manner I write to you in. I have said enough, and like one at your levée, having made my bow, I shrink back into the crowd.

Unsigned. Endorsed by Lord Oxford:—"Dean of St. Patrick's."

News Letter.

1714, July 6. London.—Captain Kelly is still in custody of Haywood the messenger, but if he can get bail he may be set at liberty.

Mr. Baker who, we mentioned in our last on his examination, said he believed Mr. Abel Boyer, the Frenchman, sent him the copies of those three letters, upon which the Huguenot was taken last Sunday morning into the custody of Mr. Dagley, one of the messengers, and yesterday was examined at the Lord Bolingbroke's office, who, denying he had any hand in the same, he was discharged.

Yesterday Lord Tamworth died of the small-pox.

Yesterday the shoemakers, in a tumultuous manner, met in Moorfields, but by the care of the Lord Mayor, they were dispersed, and three or four committed to the New Prison.

They write from the Hague that the Provinces can by no means agree about paying their debts, which some absolutely refuse to contribute to, but this makes it plain (says our author) that the Republic has need of a head to establish harmony in the midst of her. Some fancy the King of Prussia is come that way to make himself Stadtholder, though others think it is to meet the King of Sweden.

J. Digby to [Lord Harley].

1714, July 7.—Encloses a letter from William Turbutt, dated June 29, about the purchase of some hounds from Mr. Duncombe at Helmsley, in Yorkshire. Mr. Palmer says there is not room for them in the kennels. There is now due to Mr. Palmer for two years' wages 100*l.*, besides what he has laid out for the hounds.

This is our horse-race day, and the trumpet sounds, which must be obeyed.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, July 8—Asks for the ship *Deal Castle*, now vacant at Jamaica. Has been ten years at sea, some time of it captain of a man-of-war, but not so fortunate as some, which constrains him to importune his Lordship for bread, having only his half-pay to subsist on, and that but three shillings a day.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, July 8. London—One Mr. Nash, a maltster and a wealthy man, is bound over, and is to be tried next Home Assizes for saying "the Queen ought to be dethroned for making a scandalous peace," he said also that "the Duke of M[arlborough] ought to be king."

Washington Shirley, Esquire, second son to the Earl of Ferrers, who married a daughter of Sir Richard Leving, Attorney-General of Ireland, is now Lord Tamworth, by the death of the Lord Tamworth, grandson to the Earl of Ferrers.

It is said Mr. Monckton, one of the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, will be turned out next week.

Yesterday the South Sea Company voted Arthur Moore, Esquire, guilty of breach of trust and of his oath, and incapable of being of their Company. There being no proof against him, and the majority of them being Whigs, we take it to be no discredit to him.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, July 10—The chief article Captain Johnson had to say against Mr. Moore, was that he told him he should not make a dry voyage of it, and told the Lords that the said Mr. Moore called the South Sea Company a parcel of rascals. One Wheelock, a clerk in the office belonging to the Commissioners of Trade, swore he took a copy of a letter sent to the said Mr. Moore from the King of Spain, wherein he said there was an endorsement, but Mr. Moore went from the House and fetched both the original and copy of it, and it plainly appeared the clerk had not spoke the truth, so Mr. Moore was cleared of the imputation of crimes laid to his charge.

Yesterday morning several of the Whig Lords spoke against the Queen's answer inserted in this day's News Letter, particularly the Lord W[harto]n.

This morning about four at the King's Arms Tavern, in the Strand, Captain Blunt, in General Rock's regiment, giving the lie to Mr. Dobbing, surgeon to the said regiment, was stabbed to death by the latter, who is committed to Newgate.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, July 13. London—Last week the Countess Dowager of Radnor died at her house at Kensington.

On Sunday morning at four o'clock Captain Kelly, who was in custody of Haywood the messenger, accused for enlisting men, made an attempt to make his escape out of the said messenger's house, by tying two sheets together, but so soon as he came down he was taken by a sentinel, who was placed in the yard. He had yesterday irons put on him and committed to Newgate.

On Wednesday last one Day, a partner to Mr. Mann, at the Blackmoor's Head, in the Strand, woollen draper, struck in the Court of

Requests one Brewer, a rich West Country clothier. He was ordered by the Lords to be taken into custody of the Black Rod, but he kept out of the way till the Parliament was up.

We cannot learn by all the accounts we have any men that have been enlisted in Ireland or England that have been sent to Lorraine; they are to fill up fourteen Irish regiments that are in France, so that our correspondents may be easy on that head. We believe that those impudent officers made use of stratagems by saying the men they went to enlist should have encouragement from the young gentlemen at Bar le duc, as our recruiting officers formerly did here, that they should be made officers, &c.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, July 15—His Grace the Duke of Marlborough is expected here the first fair wind.

Not long since one Mr. Marshall, a bookseller and a vile Whig, in Gracechurch Street, being taken up and bound over for publishing a virulent pamphlet against the Queen and Ministry called "Nothing but the Truth," found out the woman from whom he had them, and she being had before one of the Secretaries of State, discovered that she had them from Mr. Boulter, without Temple Bar.

On Friday night the Queen's Council and the Irish plenipotentiaries agreed to heads of their pretended grievances, to lay the same before the Queen and Council.

The Lord Harley and the Lord Pelham having referred their affairs to arbitration, they have agreed the matter, and by that arbitration 20,000*l.* a year comes to my Lord Harley and 25,000*l.* a year to the other. My Lord Harley had with his Lady 10,000*l.* besides undisputed.

Doctor Clark, Minister of St. James's church, Piccadilly, has made recantation of his errors relating to the Divinity of our blessed Saviour.

The two sheriffs that were chosen this day se'nnight are Whigs, and are both upwards of seventy years old.

This morning about two a fire broke out at the end of Houndsditch, near Aldgate church, and burnt backwards into Gravel Lane, and consumed about thirty houses.

The Lord Chief Baron Ward should have gone the circuit last Tuesday, but he was taken ill that day, and continues so bad that his life is in danger, and when his Lordship departs this life the world will miss him, not only for his great ability in the law, but for his politeness in politics.

John Row, Esquire, a Bilboa merchant, is appointed Secretary to the Commissaries that are lately appointed to go to Cales to settle upon a better foundation the trade and commerce between us and Spain.

They write from Dublin of the third instant, the one hundred and twenty-eight cases of pistols and nine firelocks, that were seized the week before by the order of the Government at Mr. Martin's, a Presbyterian attorney, are sent to her Majesty's stores.

LORD HARLEY to [his father, the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, July 15. Christchurch [Oxford]—We came safe here last night. I hear the Lord Chancellor comes to lay the first stone of the new college before he returns to London. Blechinton told the Vice-Chancellor the reason why he (Lord Harcourt?) would have all the

dispatch made in the making the statutes of the new college, was because he did not know how long he might have the seals.

DR. GEORGE HICKES to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, July 18—On behalf of Mr. [Hilkiah] Bedford, whose many virtues and true learning render him worthy of his Lordship's protection and the Queen's mercy. Since his most severe sentence, the Lord Chief Justice has made him a close prisoner among the common prisoners, and his righteous soul is vexed from day to day with the filthy conversation of the wicked; and his deliverance from that most grievous durance will be as it were a deliverance from hell.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, July 20—Directions are sent to Ireland not to execute the twenty-one persons lately condemned to be hanged and quartered for enlisting men, till further orders.

Yesterday the corpse of Lord Tamworth was carried out of town to be interred in Leicestershire amongst his ancestors.

The Queen has not as yet fixed the time of her going to Windsor.

Mr. Baker, the publisher, by order, has taken up his recognisances which he entered into at Lord Bolingbroke's office, in order to be an evidence against Mr. Abel Boyer, for publishing the three letters lately printed sent to the Court of Hanover from the Queen and the Lord Treasurer.

Last night the South Sea Company waited on her Majesty with their address, giving her thanks for being graciously pleased to let them have her fourth share of the Assiento.

They write from Dublin, the 6th inst., that Mr. Garvey, the merchant, is gone off, being charged with sending men to France. He was concerned with Alderman Riley, who is taken into custody of a messenger for the same account, as is also Mr. Seagrave, the merchant. They are all three Roman Catholics.

A list of those gentlemen who took their degrees the last Act at Oxford. Doctors in Divinity: Harwood, Lombard, Haywood, Stuart, Adderly, Thomas Harcourt, Kennet. Doctors in Physic: Wagstaff, Barrowby, Chase, Jermayne, Fox. Doctors in Law: Humphrey and Clark. At the commencement at Cambridge. Doctors in Divinity: Edmundson, Gibbon, Dawson, Shirlock. Doctors in Law: Dickens and Taylor. Doctors *ad eundem*: De Laune and Sacheverell.

Last Friday a report was made by the Queen's Council in Law in relation to the Dublin political affairs. The Attorney and Solicitor-General, Mr. Conyers, and Sir Joseph Jekyll gave their opinion for the Irish plenipotentiaries, and Serjeant Cheshire, Sir William Whitlock, Mr. Lutwich, and Mr. Ward gave theirs for the Queen.

Mr. Fownds, member for Corfe Castle, is dead.

This day the Earl of Mar was married to the Lady Frances Pierpoint.

A French mail this afternoon brings advice that the Duke of Berwick arrived before Barcelona the 7th. He opened trenches and pushed them, the 12th, within a hundred toises of the counterscarp. The besieged made two sallies, but were repulsed with loss. The French squadron has taken the best part of a fleet of forty sail with provisions, that were making into the port.

A ship is arrived at Port Louis from the Indies, valued at three millions.

1714, July 22—Her Majesty's answer to the address of the South Sea Company, presented on Monday night last, to thank her for her fourth part of the Assiento contract, viz., that she thanked them for their address, wished them good success in carrying on their trade, and hoped they would make a better use than they had hitherto of what she had bestowed on them.

Robert Breedon, Esquire, brewer, and John Warren, Esquire, carpenter, the first near eighty years of age, and the latter above seventy, having signed bonds to hold the office of Sheriffs for London and Middlesex for the year ensuing to the general satisfaction of their Dissenting brethren, which creates many speculations, and the loyal Church party will do well to remember that—

The Whig citizens swear,
They want but a Mayor,
And they will do wond'rous things.

The Holland mail adds to what is already in print, that the Elector of Bavaria had insisted upon the restitution of his goods according to an old inventory he has by him, but the Emperor would restore them only according to the inventory taken of them in the year 1704, when the Imperialists became masters of his country. After this difficulty, the Elector started another, by demanding to keep in his hands Namur and Luxemburg for security for such restitution, but this was removed by the French King, who has made himself guarantee of the Emperor's performing his promise in that respect. In short, his most Christian Majesty's Ministers do so hurry on the conclusion of the treaty of Baden, that all things foreign to the empire are said to be referred to another time and place, among the rest even that of redressing the grievances of the Protestants of Germany.

The negociations at Brunswick continue suspended. It is believed that Mr. Whitworth will go and endeavour to persuade the Czar to agree to a cessation of arms.

Her Majesty has appointed next Tuesday to go to her Royal Palace at Windsor.

It should have been Count d'Gillenberg, envoy from the King of Sweden, that had audience instead of Monsieur Bonnet.

We expect in two or three days to hear of some considerable alterations.

The Duke of Marlborough, we hear, does not embark before next Saturday.

All things go very well at Court.

Sir G[ilbert] Dolben to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, July 24. Dublin—Being informed on my return from circuit that Baron Price is likely to succeed the late Chief Baron, I am encouraged to beg your patronage and recommendation that I may succeed the Baron. I am the more emboldened to make this request by your promise to moderate the resentments of the great man who is at the head of our profession, and whose displeasure I have not been able to remove. I shall continue here in hopes of being honoured with your commands, which my cousin Stratford (if in town), the Dean of St. Patrick's, or Mr. Taylour will readily communicate to me.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, July 24. London—Mr. Monckton, one of the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, is turned out of that office. He betrayed his trust in some measure in telling of stories relating to one of the Commissioners, so no one must pity him in losing a salary of 1,000*l.* per annum, for his indiscretion.

The Parliament of Ireland is further prorogued to some day in October next.

The Swedish Envoy had audience of her Majesty relating to the treaty between Great Britain and Sweden, and to those ships of ours taken by the latter in the Baltic.

Monsieur Bonnet, envoy from the King of Prussia, had audience of leave of her Majesty.

The Bishop of Rochester will be made Lord Privy Seal, and the Bishop of London first Commissioner of the Treasury.

The Holland mail this day brings that letters from Constantinople, June 15, new style, say that the Grand Vizier has published an order that all such domestics of Foreign Ministers in any part of their dominions as are subjects of the Ottoman Empire shall pay the same tribute as the Jews and Christians.

Nineteen Dutch East Indiamen arrived in the Texel.

Prince Eugene and Monsieur Villars are to be at Baden to sign the peace by the 15th of August.

A trumpet sent out with a letter to M. Bellefontaine by the deputation of Barcelona had been sent back without being heard. The citizens continued as obstinate as ever, and say they will lose their lives, and eat their very children before they will renounce their privileges. Nevertheless they reckon to be masters of the place in a month.

The conclusion of the treaty of Baden is thought by some to depend upon that of the said siege.

It is said Sir W. W[ynd]ham, Sir J. Pack[ing]ton, Mr. Comp[to]n, and Mr. James Brydges will be the other four Commissioners of the Treasury.

Lord Bolingbroke will be created an Earl and have a Garter.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1714, July 26—I humbly thank your Lordship for your order to me to send a receipt for the usual sum on my particular account, which I have done enclosed, and shall attend myself in the evening. I am capable of judging but by outsides of things, and of knowing little but without doors, but when I see those who owe their fortunes to you and who have pretended so much face about upon their benefactors, it cannot but move me to lay their conduct before you. When I see with what assurance they tell the world how capable they are to act without your help, when I know the time they could not have stood an hour without you, this tells me their folly and treachery at the same time.

But when they speak of their having power with the Queen to dispossess and succeed your Lordship, I must confess it amazes me, as well to think whether such a thing can be, as what ruin the nation will be exposed to if it should. I hope still your Lordship, who has been victorious over worse enemies than these, will easily baffle their projects,

if not I think it my duty to repeat my assurances of my following your worst fortunes, and of being, fall it foul or fair, your constant, faithful, steady as well as humble and obedient servant.

MATTHEW DECKER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, July 27. Broad Street—I hope you will be so well persuaded of the sincere respect and true friendship I have always had, and for ever shall continue to have, for your Lordship, that I need not make many words to utter my grief, for the news Mr. Drummond brought me home last night of your being out of that great employment which you have borne with so much reputation.

A design you had of doing me the honour of coming to a small dinner may I now ask for as a right, and can it be before Mr. Drummond goes over; you will thus oblige two of your true friends, and from you it is we must expect to know the day, which I shall reckon under those happy ones I have had in this world.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, July 27. London—On Wednesday last came to age the Lord Pelham, and at his seat in Sussex he made them a noble entertainment, where were dressed seven oxen, fifteen sheep, six calves, eight bucks, and so proportionable of fowls, &c. There were eighty stands of sweetmeats on the first table, and so proportionable on the rest; forty-nine hogsheads of strong beer, seven hogsheads of claret, besides champagne, burgundy, &c., and four hogsheads of bunch *(sic)*, &c., the aforesaid feast cost two thousand pounds.

The Lord Ashburnham was married by seven o'clock in the morning at the Royal Chapel at Whitehall, after which his Lordship and his Lady went to his seat at Ashburnham, in Sussex.

On Saturday last the Lord Treasurer, the Bishop of London, the Lord Bolingbroke, the Earl Pawlet, Mr. Secretary Bromley, &c., dined with the Duke of Buckingham at his house in St. James's Park.

By the French mail this day we are advised by letters from the camp before Barcelona, of the seventeenth of July, that they are hard at work on parallels, one of which is within a hundred toises of the covered way, and on batteries consisting of seventy pieces of cannon, which were to be ready to fire all together by the twenty-fifth, against which time the rest of the French troops were to arrive. The besieged have not yet made another sally.

The King of Portugal hearing that the peace between Spain and Holland was concluded by the mediation of the French King, called a council, wherein it was resolved to desire that King's interposition also in the treaty between Spain and Portugal, and expresses were accordingly dispatched away by sea immediately.

The author of the Paris letter concludes that a great armament is making in France for the South Sea.

Charles Cholmondley, Esquire, Knight of the Shire for Cheshire, is married to Diamond Pitt's daughter.

Expect in our next a true list of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

This day se'nnight the Queen goes to Windsor.

The Earl of Oxford to his sister [Abigail Harley?].

1714, July 29—I hope my dearest sister was sufficiently prepared for what happened on Tuesday night, that there was no need of my writing by that post, if it had been possible.

I came in with the expectation of the treatment I meet with. I thought it as much my duty then to come in as now to be out, and it is my comfort I do go out with as much honour and innocency as I came in. Let me send you the following imitation:—

To serve with love,
And shed your blood,
Approved is above;
But here below,
Th' example show,
It is fatal to be good.

God preserve my dearest sister. Affectionate service to Sister Harley. I pray God bless all the little ones. Tell Miss Hyde to see how well she rides.

Dr. W. Stratford to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, July 29—I heartily congratulate your Lordship upon your "quietus." My concern is only as to the public consequences of it, in which I hope we shall have our shares in proportion to our stake. By observing one duty too strictly you have neglected another, which, though not equally, was strongly incumbent on you, and the more so for the eminent deserts of those who have sprung from you; I mean that through your care for the public you have not had the regard you ought to the apostolic precept of providing for your own family.

Lord Lansdowne to [the Earl of Oxford.]

[1714, July 30.] Friday—I am this moment come from Kensington. The Queen is very dangerously ill, and little hope but from the working of the blisters, which will not be known till the evening. The Council resolved unanimously to desire her to put the Treasurer's staff into the Duke of Shrewsbury's hands, which she did, being perfect in her senses.

[Lord Lansdowne] to Lord Dupplin, in Poland Street.

[Same date?]—The Queen is much as she was when I saw you at Kensington. The Council is adjourned till to-morrow at eight in the morning. The very worst is to be apprehended. In my opinion your father should not be absent, but he knows best.

W. Bromley to the Earl of Oxford.

[1714, July 30.] Friday—We have been very much frightened with the Queen's being seized with convulsions this morning and in an apoplectic manner. She is yet sensible, but the physicians have little hopes of her recovery. In the present exigency the Lords unanimously desired her Majesty to make the Duke of Shrewsbury Lord Treasurer.

He has the staff and a commission is preparing. The Council has issued the necessary orders for preserving the public peace.

The Dukes of Somerset and Argyll have sat in Council with the Lords.

[GEORGE LOCKHART to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1713, July 30. Dryden—Having received your commands to inform you how matters were like to go in this country, I have tried all the ways I could think of, to render me capable to give your Lordship some satisfaction.

When I came here I found the people very much out of temper on account of the Malt Tax, and pains had been taken to make them believe it was owing chiefly to the Ministry, which was improven with a view to the elections. This story was soon run down, by the hopes we had of being eased by the proposals your Lordship was pleased to make to the Scotch members, but finding they took no effect, the same efforts are renewed, though I hope with little success, except with the Presbyterian ministers and leaders of the Whig party, who lay hold on this and every handle to give the people a bad impression of the Queen, your Lordship and all the other Ministers of State, and are in their ordinary course of exact and unwearied diligence to advance the interest of their friends at the ensuing elections. However I may venture to assure your Lordship that, notwithstanding the powerful assistance they pretend to be assured of from some certain great men, they may be easily disappointed, for the Tory party in this country wants nothing but a little encouragement and good management to excite and enable them to rout the other to all intents and purposes, but the truth of it is they have begun to despond and some things must be done to provoke or persuade them to exert themselves, otherwise their adversaries, active and revenge spirits, will have the better, and though a minority and even a scandalous one amongst the nobility and gentry, prevail over the majority. In managing the elections, the Whigs have recourse to their old topics of Popery and the Pretender, and the security of the Kirk, but these being bugbears they insist very much on the fatal consequences of the peace, the designed bad effects of the bill for the commerce, and the necessity of having the Union dissolved, and though they themselves were the tools of bringing it about, they will not allow that any set of men besides themselves are for dissolving of it. There has no care been wanting to give a right turn to all these matters. The behaviour of their friends, the English Whigs, in the Malt Tax has been laid open, the private views and chief aim of some in the matter of the Union have been represented, and some of our merchants have published some very good papers with relation to the state of our trade, and by these means the designed mischief hath not the expected success. But the Whigs have this advantage, that they are an united party, act by concert, and are supported by the best advice and the greatest encouragement of their great ones, whereas the Tories are without a head, and every one does that which is right in his own eyes, and have not that weight which they might justly claim, by reason that so many who enjoy offices under her Majesty still appear against them.

This being the state of affairs in this country, I am persuaded your Lordship will give them another turn. I have taken all the pains I could to have it believed that your Lordship's time has been so

ecessarily employed in the matter of the peace and other great affairs hat it was impracticable for you to settle the affairs of this country, ut now that these more weighty points are adjusted, and that so much depends upon the next Parliament, I am persuaded, and everybody is in full expectation, that what is so necessary for her Majesty's service, the common interest of the Island and your Lordship's own security will not be longer delayed, and I dare venture to assure your Lordship this country will do more than meet you half way.

Having said so much in general, allow me to descend into particulars, and first of all represent the necessity of giving directions to be as easy, or rather as negligent, as possible in collecting of the Malt Tax, for as little or nothing will be raised by it (the people in most places having made as much malt as will serve for near a year), so the uplifting of it will irritate them against those who have hitherto appeared to favour and wish well to the Ministry. Besides the people have resolved to refuse access to the officers, and the execution of the law will certainly occasion some mischief or another. I am told 'tis very necessary to change the sheriffs in several of the counties, especially in the northern counties, for in Scotland, besides the returning

Imperfect.

Dr. George Hickes to the Earl of Oxford.

1714, July 31—I was domestic chaplain to the Duke of Lauderdale when he was sole Secretary of State for the kingdom of Scotland, and of the Privy Council and Cabinet to the King, and in all this time of his greatness men of all conditions daily resorted to him in such numbers that I myself was often forced to seek out places of retirement to withdraw from the crowd. But when his infirmities obliged him to resign his office, and withdraw from the business of the Court, his house was no longer frequented, but became like those of other private persons of honour, though when he resigned he had all the marks of favour from his Royal Master, who let him name his successor to show the world he was not dismissed in disgrace.

However, not being any longer in a post of greatness, he was, as it were, deserted by all but a few faithful friends, and even a great part of those whom he had obliged and for whom he had procured places, behaved themselves as strangers to him, in never after waiting upon him, which occasioned one of his true friends to say to him, "Were there not ten cleansed, but where are the nine?"

My Lord, I cannot but think your Lordship hath met with such usage, and that I may not seem to be like my patron's false friends or ungrateful beneficiaries, I take this way of waiting upon your Lordship to show you that I am none of that number, but that I inviolably retain my fidelity to your Lordship as my friend, and my gratitude to you as my benefactor, and that I have the same true affection and honour for the Earl of Oxford that I had for my Lord High Treasurer, and ever will retain them for you to my life's end.

E. Lady Orkney to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, July 31. Ingestre—Being at this distance from London is the reason I have not sooner assured your Lordship of my concern for everything that touches you or your family, I have feared what has

happened some time, and therefore am not surprised, but that does not make the news less disagreeable to me. I hope you will excuse this short trouble, though it can be no satisfaction to you to hear my thoughts, yet in my opinion 'tis what I ought to do for my own ease. I shall be in London in some days, where I shall be glad to see your Lordship, not to talk of what can't be altered, though might have been prevented, but to give you thanks for the regard you have had to some friends of mine.

[EDWARD HARLEY?] to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

[1714, July 31]—The occurrences of this week have been so extraordinary that I suppose it will be very acceptable to you to have a true account thereof.

The Queen for some time having been persuaded to part with the late Lord Treasurer by some persons who did not think they grew rich fast enough under his administration, and who had, as there is great reason to suspect, some worse designs. Her Majesty was at last prevailed upon by a perpetual teasing to come to a resolution to part with him. On Tuesday in the morning and afternoon, before he delivered up the staff, she expressed a great trouble and concern. The staff being delivered up on Tuesday night, it was expected that the Treasury would have been immediately filled. But they that had pressed the removal of the Treasurer could not propose such persons as the Queen would approve to succeed him. The Queen slept very little on Tuesday night, on Wednesday was much indisposed, and on Thursday was seized with a lethargic fit, but by cupping was much relieved. On Friday, about ten o'clock in the morning, was seized with another fit, that it was apprehended she was immediately dying, but it please[d] God she so far recovered, which gave her Majesty the opportunity of putting the staff into the hands of the Duke of Shrewsbury, whereby the schemes of the new intended Ministry in all appearance are entirely confounded. This day, about ten o'clock, it was apprehended her Majesty was just expiring, but by the strength of nature, she recovered out of that fit. There is so little hopes of her recovery that an express is this day sent to the Court of Hanover to desire his Electoral Highness immediately to come to England. It is thought by the physicians that she cannot live many days.

MONEY lent to the QUEEN by the EARL OF OXFORD.

[1714, July]—Two papers in Lord Oxford's handwriting giving an "Account of money laid out of my own for the Queen at several times." The dates, between 1712 and July, 1714, of the various advances are given, but not in chronological order, with the amount of each advance, and the name of the person to whom it was paid—in two cases, however, some disguise is meant, for two sums of 100*l.* and 200*l.* respectively are entered as paid in March, 1714, to "Kuthbert," written in Greek characters, and 100*l.* is paid to "L. Orde," written in like characters, in April of that year.

Among the entries may be noted—Sir Roger Bradshaigh, 1,000*l.* and 200*l.*; Earl Rivers, 300*l.*; Sir Scipio Hill, 100*l.*; Sir J. Maclean, 100*l.*; Duke of Leeds, 200*l.*; Lord Herbert, 200*l.* and 300*l.*; Cranfield, two payments of 200*l.* each; Cameron, 100*l.*, 40*l.*, 50*l.*, and

20*l.* at various times; R. Hampden, 400*l.*; Lady Oglethorpe, 200*l.*; Col. Graham, 200*l.* Altogether Lord Oxford puts down a total of 4,700*l.* due to him; he adds, "but it is much more, as will appear by my memdms.; this is only what occurs (to me?)."

A third paper, evidently written many years after by the second Earl of Oxford, runs thus:—"Tuesday, July 27, 1714. R., Earl of Oxford, delivered up the Treasurer's staff to the Queen in her closet. Her Majesty was pleased to talk with him after his delivery of the staff above two hours, and among other matters told him she knew he had laid out several sums of money for her service and by her direction, that she expected he should come to her again, that she would not then give directions for the payment of the money, the doing of which she reserved till his next coming to her.

The Queen fell ill the next day and died the Sunday following, so Lord O. had no opportunity of waiting again upon her Majesty. Lord O., in his lifetime, mentioned often to his brother and son that a considerable sum of money was due to him from the late Queen, but by reason of his troubles and his retirement in the country he did not make application for it. His son, the present Earl of Oxford, has found, among his father's papers, memoranda in the late Earl's own hand which specify that the late Queen owed him above 4,700*l.*

It is, therefore, humbly hoped that out of the money applicable to the Queen's debts this sum may be paid."

LORD FOLEY to his brother-in-law [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, August 2. Witley—Last post I had the honour of yours, and heartily condole the public upon the news it brought. I hope Providence will order affairs so that the nation will not long want the influence of your prudent management, which they found so much benefit by.

The MARQUIS OF CARMARTHEN to his father-in-law [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, August 2. Badminton—The confusion we are in here on the dismal news of her Majesty's death is not to be expressed. I am sorry to hear your Lordship is no longer Treasurer, but I assure you you will ever find me truly dutiful in everything towards the father of my late dear wife. Tommy is in perfect health. I shall ever devote my life and fortune to your service.

P[AUL] FOLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, August 2. Shrewsbury—Were I to consider your private interest only, I ought to congratulate your deliverance from the heavy burden you have endured for the good of your country, which I am satisfied was the chief end of all your actions; but when I consider the consequences that may attend this remove, and that it may be the alarm bell to the Protestant religion, to the liberties of our country, and to the Protestant succession in the house of Hanover, both myself and others cannot but be under the greatest concern, and ought to join heartily with your Lordship in such measures as you shall think proper.

T[HEOPHILUS] OGLETHORPE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, August [3-]14, N.S. Naples—When I left Sicily I acquainted your Lordship with it, and I shall take the liberty to acquaint you with the particulars when I arrive in Sicily. The Vice-King (Count Taun) has been civiler than commonly Germans are to me. He says he has positive orders to keep a good correspondence with the Queen of England, and to give all reasonable satisfaction to the demands of Admiral Wishart, and writes by me to him, accordingly this night I return for Messina. I cannot but do justice to Mr. Fleetwood, the Consul here; who has had the only share in getting those advices that I believe will be of that service to the King of Sicily, that he will acquaint you with it, and without whose assistance my being here would have been of little consequence, jealousy reigns so much here amongst the Germans, that at present I cannot explain myself any more.

[DANIEL DE FOE to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1714, August 3—The surprising turn given by the immediate hand of Providence to the state of things since my last has been the reason why I have not pursued what I was upon for vindicating your Lordship's person and conduct, and exposing your enemies, as I had proposed to you, and which was actually in the press and part of it printed off.

The change of affairs necessarily working a change in the judgment men make of things, I thought it my duty to take my measures from your Lordship, and from the farther turns in the public administration which a little time may produce. I give you the trouble of this only to let you see that I am not unmindful of my duty, and that your service and interest, which was always at my heart, is still so as much as ever, and will remain so at all times. I cannot omit my humble and thankful mention of your goodness to me, when I had last the honour to attend you, and when you were pleased to give me assurance of the continuance of your favour and bounty. It remains that I endeavour to merit your goodness, or at least to convince you that I am willing to do so, by a constant adhering to your interest and service to the utmost.

VISCOUNTESS DUPPLIN to her Aunt, ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1714, August 3. London—I have been prevented writing to my dear Aunt ever since I came to town, indeed the last posts, I could not sit down to write, the surprise and concern for the Queen's illness made me incapable of anything. The Queen died Sunday morning half an hour after seven. The Council met immediately, and opened the papers where the present King had appointed the Regency, which you will see in all the public papers. By Act of Parliament there are seven besides, that is, the Archbishop, Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Lord Chief Justice, and first Commissioner of the Admiralty. Between one and two they began to proclaim King George. All the nobility attended the proclamation, and there was not the least disturbance. The Parliament met, and the Lords and Commons took the oaths. Thank God everything is quiet, and I hope will continue so. The Regency and Council sit every day at St. James's. I hear the Earl Marshal is to issue out an order for

mourning, which will be very close; when we know what it is I will send you word.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, August 3—They write from Dublin of the 24th past, that her Majesty had sent orders for reprieving the twenty-one men who were to be executed that day at Kilmainham, on account of enlisting and being enlisted for the service of the Pretender, till further orders.

Mr. Davis, junior, the messenger, was sent to Ireland on Sunday last with orders to the Lords Justices there to proclaim his Majesty King George, as also Mr. Gordon, the messenger, to Edinburgh. The same day several other messengers were dispatched for to desire those Lords of the Regency that are in the country to come to town.

The names of those physicians which assisted her late Majesty in her illness, and who signed an account of her indisposition and of what she died, viz., Doctor Shadwell, Doctor Hamilton, Doctor Arbuthnot, Doctor Sloane, Doctor Lawrence, Doctor Blackmore, and Doctor Mead.

By the Holland this day it is advised that Mr. Whitworth set out the 9th, new style, for Frankfort, in his way to Augsburg, and to second the Protestants in their demands to be eased in point of religion, the Imperial Ministers at Baden persisting in their refusal to suffer the least alteration to be made in the treaty there in favour of those poor people. The nobility of Poland are so disgusted at King Augustus that a revolt may soon be expected, and that perhaps in favour of King Stanislaus. It is thought the place of treaty concerning the Dutch barrier will be named forthwith. The Earl of Clarendon had audience of the Court of Hanover on the 4th. The Czar was still at Revel on the 17th July. Prince Eugene and the Marshal de Villars will not be at Baden till the 20th or 24th (new style), and the "Amsterdam Courant" pretends there is a coldness between the Ministers of the Emperor and those of France. A marriage is agreed upon between the King of Spain and the Princess of Parma, who is about 20 years of age.

The Earl of Berkeley, of Berkeley Castle, is appointed Admiral of the fleet that is to cruise in the Channel.

This evening the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough are expected in town, being lately arrived at Dover.

The Parliament is adjourned till to-morrow, having done no business except taking the oaths to his Majesty.

Joseph Addison, Esquire, is made Secretary to the Regency, and the Duke of Bolton, Lord Lieutenant of Southampton. Directions are sent to the Earl of Strafford to wait on his Majesty.

The EARL OF GLASGOW to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, July [*sic* should be August] 5. Edinburgh—The afflicting news of the Queen's death was very surprising to us here. This day the Elector of Brunswick was proclaimed King in a most peaceable and calm manner, attended with many huzzas and great rejoicing. My Lord, I was very much troubled with the accounts of your Lordship's resigning your office, for none can be more hearty for King George, his interest and family, than your Lordship, and more capable to serve in that high station. I beg leave most humbly to thank your Lordship for your friendship and favour to me, and do assure you so far

as I have access shall ever faithfully serve your Lordship and interest to my power.

[The Earl of Oxford] to the King.

1714, August 6-17—Sire, I beseech your Majesty to accept the most dutiful congratulation [which] can be offered by a faithful subject upon your Majesty's accession to the throne of your ancestors. I had the honour in the two preceding reigns to express my love to my country by promoting what is now come to pass, your Majesty's succession to the crowns of these kingdoms. It remains now that I assure your Majesty I shall study to show the zeal and devotion wherewith I am, Sire, your Majesty's most dutiful, most humble and most obedient subject. (*Draft.*)

News Letter.

1714, August 7—We are informed that Portman Seymour, Esquire, a gentleman of considerable fortune, aged sixty-one years, is lately married to Mrs. Wych, of Wilts, aged fourteen, a beauty, who has for her fortune fifteen hundred pounds, and that a match is near concluded between the Earl of Clarendon and Mrs. Parker, of Ormond Street, relict of Mr. Parker, member of Parliament, and it is thought will be solemnised at his return from Hanover. She is a great fortune and a lady of a singular merit.

An order is passing the seals to be directed to the Lord Masham, as Cofferer, to pay thirty thousand pounds for arrears due to the King's household, and forty thousand pounds to pay the current expenses of the said household.

Mr. Secretary Bromley made the first motion in the House of Commons for an humble address to his Majesty. The House of Lords also, on Thursday, agreed to an humble address to his Majesty.

The new Commission for the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, wherein Robert Monckton, Esquire, was to be left out, not passing the seals before the demise of her Majesty, he continues in, and sits at the Board as one of them.

The Lord North and Grey is gone by order to his government of Portsmouth, and ten half-pay captains, fifteen lieutenants and ensigns are ordered thither, to be at hand to put themselves at the head of the Militia of those parts if need should be.

On Monday last the Marquis of Dorchester was married to the Earl of Portland's sister.

Thursday the Commons resolved that a supply be granted to his Majesty's household, and for the honour and dignity of the Crown. Mr. Bromley acquainted the House that he had presented their address to the Lords Justices, who were pleased to give answer that they will transmit the same with all convenient speed to his Majesty as is desired.

By a French mail this day we have a letter from Paris of the fifteenth instant new style, which takes no notice of the Queen's illness or death. From the camp before Barcelona it is advised that the besiegers have taken a redoubt, and are busy making lodgments. The rear of this camp was attacked on the twenty-eighth past by four or five thousand Miquelets, who were presently repulsed. The curtain and bastions being quite ruined, they were preparing to make the assault, and hoped

to be soon masters of the place, the ditch being neither deep nor wide. The marriage of the King of Spain is confirmed.

Dr. Thomas Tudway to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, August 9. [Cambridge]—Was not this a time when all loyal hearts are overwhelmed with grief for the loss of our most gracious and good Queen, I might trouble you with some account of my own particular hard fortune. I was barbarously used by the late Ministry for several years for nothing, as 'tis well known; all my subsistence taken from me, turned out of my house where I had lived with my family almost twenty years, a livelihood to seek at near threescore years of age. I came well recommended to your Lordship, and was favourably received, and her Majesty was not wanting in her accustomed goodness to say that my sufferings ought to be considered. But if nothing was done for me before you resigned the staff, I am left in a worse condition than I was before, being exposed to the same men's rage and to be served in the same manner for having dared to complain, for as the poet has it:—

Forgiveness to the injured does belong,
But they ne'er pardon who have done the wrong.

I humbly beg your consideration in this affair. My constant and strict adherence and attachment to you has left me without any other friend, and I don't doubt but your influence may still assist me.

News Letter.

1714, August 10. London—Several seals are passing for the payment of upwards of one million one hundred thousand pounds to pay the forces beyond the sea, guards and garrisons, the Navy and ordnance.

On Wednesday last Mr. Man, the woollen draper, went to the Earl of Oxford's house in York Buildings, and called his Lordship all to naught, so soon as he went out of the house he met the Lord Bingley and insulted him. This is the Man that formerly said (speaking of Mr. Harley being stabbed by Guiscard), "It is a pity it did not go to his heart."

This day the corpse of the Lord Weymouth was carried out of town to be interred in Wilts.

The following men-of-war are to be commanded by the Earl of Berkeley: *York*, *Dreadnought*, *Centurion*, *Sweepstakes*, *Fowey*, *Weymouth*, *Windsor*, *Pembroke*, *Elizabeth*, *Bedford*, *Anglesey*, and *Warwick*.

The Earl of Peterborough arrived here on Sunday.

Orders are sent to the Earl of Strafford to go to Hanover to wait on his Majesty.

They write from the Hague that with the States' resolution, they have also sent a letter of congratulation to the King. Repeated their orders to the Admiralties to hasten the equipment of 24 men of war, and talk of sending over hither six thousand men, pursuant to the treaty of guarantees. All the foreign Ministers had dispatched expresses to their principals, and particularly the Emperor's had sent two to Vienna, and two to Baden, where they reckoned Prince Eugene has arrived to sign the peace. The Earl of Peterborough was told by the French King that he would not assist the Chevalier St. George, nor let him go through his territories, and was resolved to stand to the peace lately made, and not to meddle with the succession.

Orders are sent to Dublin to require Sir Samuel Cook and the aldermen of that city to meet, and elect forthwith a Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and the Lords Justices and Council are to approve of the persons so elected.

This day the Commons in a committee resolved that towards the supplies granted to his Majesty the said revenues, which were payable to her late Majesty during her life, become payable in like manner to his Majesty during his life. As to the revenue of the Duchy of Cornwall, which is by law vested in the Prince as Duke of Cornwall, it was resolved that the said revenues be continued from the Duchy.

[C. Lawton to the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, August 10—The person who told me doth not rightly understand it, but one of your enemies, whose name I will tell you to-morrow, hath told the Lords Justices that you had sent down to Scotland some order for money, which you forgot to counter-sign, and that it hath been returned since you lost your staff, and that you have counter-signed it. Perhaps you may know this already, but I thought I ought to give you this notice this night, because the Lords Justices are to take it into consideration to-morrow.

Israel Feilding to the Earl of Oxford.

1714, August 10. Denmark Street—Thanks for kindnesses shown to his poor family. The quarterly allowances had been all paid up to that due at Midsummer, hopes his Lordship took care of that too before he left the staff, as the allowance (of 62*l.* 10*s.* per quarter) was most of the maintenance his family had, and that was from hand to mouth.

The Earl of Oxford to [the Rev. W. Stratford?].

1714, August 10—I have had so many testimonies of your friendship to myself, and what is dearer to me, my son, that I must look upon your letter [as] a continuation of the same friendly offices.

The calamity which followed, too soon alas! my Quietus has filled my heart and my head. I doubt we must pervert the old saying into—*delirant Achivi plectitur Rex.* Some sin out of vanity and restlessness of temper, another is *grati nequam*, he could not be higher—one can never have enough to spend, another can never get enough. But, dear friend, pardon this sally. I shall be glad to see you here before our King comes, but of that we shall have notice. I had a most affectionate letter from my Lord of Chester [Gastrell], and an obliging visit from the late Almoner.

News Letter.

1714, August 12—Orders are sent to Ireland for the Privy Council there to take the oaths to King George.

The advices from Scotland are that they do not hear of any disturbance there.

Her Majesty had not completed her will.

On Saturday last the honourable Mr. Finch, Master of the Jewel House, carried, by the Lords Justices' directions, the jewels that were her late Majesty's to the Tower, to be lodged there for security, value two hundred thousand pounds. One of them is worth twenty-five thousand pounds, and that which was the late Prince George's is worth fifteen thousand pounds.

The Duke of Atholl to [the Earl Findlater].

1714, August 13. Blair Castle—The Earl of Mar did acquaint me of our inexpressible loss of our good Queen. It has affected me so much that I have been much indisposed since. It is a mercy we have a Protestant King to succeed her. I have sent for two justices of peace to come here to see me take the oaths to the King, since I could not go to Edinburgh, and that my staying here is absolutely necessary for preserving the peace, and which the Earl of Mar writ to me on the Queen's illness, that the Privy Council recommended earnestly to me to preserve the peace, where I have interest, which I not only hope to do, but also to keep all quiet in this part of the Highlands so long as I continue in this country. But your Lordship knows that after King William's accession to the crown, by my father's absence, being then at the Bath, some were enticed from their duty, and I doubt not the keeping my men now in their duty to King George will have good effect on my neighbours in the Highlands also. I have an account that Lochiel and Sir John McClean were at Inverlochie, and that General Maitland had or was going to secure them when they made their escape from him. It will be fit some course be soon taken to bring them in, for this will alarm not only them, but the rest of the clans. Your Lordship knows by the Scots Acts of Parliament they are obliged to give bail when required by the Council, and I wish this method had been first followed. If the Lords Justices and Council think fit to appoint the Lords Justices' clerk and me to take bail for any of the clans they shall name, I shall do my endeavour to bring them in to give it, and the Lord Justices' clerk and I may meet either at Perth or in Atholl to take their bail. This is with all submission to the Lords Justices and Council, and the desire I have to prevent any disturbance in the Highlands of Scotland, which at this juncture may be of ill-consequence, occasions this proposal, and if it should not take effect then their Lordships may give what other orders they shall judge proper.

Monday last the proclamation for proclaiming the King came to my sheriff deputy's hands at Perth, who having my orders to proclaim his Majesty King George whenever it came to him, it was accordingly proclaimed the day following, being the tenth, with concurrence of the magistrates and Town Council, with very great solemnity, and not the least stir or any undutiful expressions were heard in the whole town. My brother Edward was present at the proclamation, and I did not think fit that it should be delayed till I should go to that place, being twenty-six miles distant from this; and besides the absolute necessity of my being here at this time, I have been very much indisposed since the most afflicting news, not so much as being able to write with my own hand sooner, and I have been two days writing this.

[JONATHAN SWIFT to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1714, August 15—This great event of the Queen's death, as it has broken your measures of retiring, and called you back again into affairs, so it has affected me so far as to force me into Ireland to take the oaths. I set out to-morrow morning, and shall have no thought of returning, unless some juncture of affairs shall make my friends think it may be of any use. I wish your Lordship good success in this new scene, and that you may have credit enough with the King to set him right in his opinions of persons and things. I am almost tempted to think it was by the peculiar favour of Providence that your Lordship gave up your employment before her Majesty's death. At least it is thus I judge at distance from the leavings of the little I knew when I came from town. However, I conceive you have still as hard a game to play as any man now in England, and will be as much obnoxious to censure as when you were at the head of the Ministry; though perhaps less to danger, and though I know you value neither, yet I could wish to see you always exempt from both, as far as human prudence can place you. At least, a good man should only be threatened by cowards and censured by fools, and then he will be safe enough in his person and reputation. I am, with the greatest respect, your Lordship's, &c.

(*Endorsed by Lord Oxford:*—"D. Sw. Augu[st] 15, 1714. R[eceived] Augu[st] 18."

HORSE RACING.

1714, August 17. At Nottingham course—First heat: Mr. Holebeck's horse, named Little John, won the first heat. Mr. Ramsey's horse, named Luckless, was second horse. Lord Stamford's horse, named Wyvill, was third. Lord Goar's horse, named Tinker, was fourth. Duke of Rutland's horse, named Jett, was fifth horse, the first heat. Mr. Blathourick's horse named Woodcock, and Mr. Hill's horse named Turk, were distanced the first heat. Second heat: Mr. Holebeck's horse, named Little John, won the second heat; Mr. Ramsey's horse, named Luckless, was second horse; Lord Stamford's gray horse, named Wyvill, was third horse, second heat. Duke of Rutland's horse Jett and Lord Goar's Tinker distanced the second heat. Third heat: Mr. Holbeck's horse named Little John galloped the course, about two miles and a half, for the third heat, there met with a mischance, either of a trip or, some say, the course was crossed on him, he threw his rider, who was taken up as dead, but recovered again, the horse's shoulder broke in pieces, as it is supposed of his lameness, of which mischance Mr. Ramsey's horse, named Luckless, got the heat and the plate allowed him. Lord Stamford's gray horse Wyvill got the stakes.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, August 19. London—They wrote from Glasgow that upon hearing the Queen was dead, the Kirk people rose up and pulled down the Episcopal Church there.

The Queen's corpse is to be carried next Saturday night from Kensington to the Princes' Chamber, next the House of Lords.

We hear that furniture is sent to the King's house at Greenwich, for it is said now that his Majesty will lie there the night before he makes his entry into the city.

When his Majesty sent for the Earl of Clarendon, to tell him of the Queen's death, his Lordship was saying he lost a very good friend by her death. We are told his Majesty acquainted him that he would be his friend. His Lordship is very much caressed by the whole Court.

The King designs to set out next Friday from Hanover, and to be at the Hague the Wednesday following.

The time is now fixed for her Majesty's interment, which is to be next Sunday night.

The Duchess of Somerset is to be chief mourner, supported by two Duchesses, her train by two more, according to seniority. Ten Countesses to follow, if not so many, to be supplied by the next lesser degree. All the Lords according to their degree and their eldest sons only, the corpse to be carried by twenty-four Yeomen of the Guards, under a canopy carried by the gentlemen of the Privy Chamber.

On Monday night last the Duke of Richmond arrived here from France.

News Letter.

1714, August 21. London—The funeral of her Majesty, which was fixed for to-morrow, is put off till next Tuesday night, by reason the ladies could not get their clothes ready against to-morrow.

His Majesty being to reside at his Royal Palace at St. James's, the Lady Masham's apartment there is preparing to be fitted up for the Prince, and that of the Duchess of Somerset for the Prince's children.

Ipswich, August 14—Although we are deeply concerned for the loss of the Queen, we cannot forbear giving some account of the indecent behaviour of our Whigs upon the news of the death of the Queen, which was brought the second instant. The next morning orders were sent to the churchwardens to command them to ring their bells, which most of them refused, though at last many of them complied through fear, so that we had ringing of bells in most churches all day long, but when the Sheriff came to proclaim the King, few of the Whigs appeared, though a great many of the loyal gentlemen of the town did, the first standing with their hats on all the time the proclamation was reading, by which we may guess that they are like to be no better subjects to the King than they were to the Queen.

Dr. George Hickes to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, August 26—I was this morning informed for certain, and from a sure hand, that the names of all who have been summoned to take the oaths by the Justices of the Peace for Middlesex will be returned to the Lords Justices, by whose authority warrants will be sent out for the respective persons so summoned to take the oaths; and upon their refusal to take them, that they will be committed to prison, and put in the condition of Recusants.

It is my misfortune, among many other non-jurors, to be summoned, and if the Lords Justices proceed in this severe manner against us, I shall be the first example of their severity, because my infirmities will not suffer me to be absent from home, as others younger and in better health may do. I cannot guess whether your Lordship can prevent this great affliction from coming upon me. If you can, I humbly implore your help, or your directions how to avoid it, if it may be avoided by any means. The Papists generally take the oaths, which aggravates our case who cannot take them, and renders us in a manner as the Περιψηματα and Περικαθαρματα of the world, unless God inspire those, who have now power over us, to have pity upon us. Some, nay I hope many, merciful and compassionate persons are among them, and with whom you may honourably intercede in general for the Protestant non-jurors, and particularly for your Lordship's most obliged, devoted and obedient servant.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, August 26—It is not that I have been either negligent or unmindful either of your Lordship's interest or my own obligation, that I have not sooner offered to your Lordship what I formerly proposed for your service. But I hope in a few days by convincing proofs to shew you what my zeal for your interest will always dictate to me.

Indeed, the juncture has been so nice I hardly could tell which way to direct words so to suit the fluctuating tempers of the people, as not to do harm instead of good; if I pressed moderation, and a return to charity and temper, our outrageous people presently call it fear of punishment and the law, and they begin to be calling for fire from Heaven already, not knowing what spirit they are of. Alas! how sick will they be of their new King if he will not gratify their revenge and make war upon half his people.

In this difficulty I find the way to talk with them is by little and little, gaining upon their furious tempers by inches. This, therefore, is but an introduction, and speaks all upon generals, and will be followed with another and another, as things present and as the distinction between your Lordship's administration and that which would have followed is absolutely necessary. My next will state that part more clearly than anything seems to have done yet, I mean within the reach of common observation.

I humbly refer the tract herewith laid before your Lordship to your charity on account of the goodness of the design. I shall go on to do everything that I can see the least room to suppose may be of service, having neither thought nor judgment but what is fully employed to find out methods how I may render myself useful and serviceable to you, to whom I am bound by so many obligations.

News Letter.

1714, August 28—We are informed that his Majesty has been so gracious as to release all State and other prisoners in his Electorate, which shews that he is full of clemency and mercy, and we do not doubt in the least but to be very happy under his administration.

Last Thursday's "Flying Post," printed for Tookey, is much talked on here, for his impudence in abusing the memory of the best of Queens, as also of his scandalous reflections on the Duke of Ormond by having this expression in it: "They sent a fresh General into the field with his hands tied down—a very politic conduct upon a double account, for by stratagem he could neither fight the enemy nor steal the soldiers' bread."

Dublin, August 21—Our Quarter Sessions being adjourned to Tuesday last, our Lord Mayor was there. The same afternoon the Aldermen met at the Holsell (without consent of the Mayor), and chose Alderman Page Lord Mayor, who chose Mr. Thomas Somerie, who was twice elected formerly, but disapproved, for his Sheriff. On Thursday the Lord Mayor gave orders to summon the Aldermen to come to an election for Lord Mayor and a Sheriff. As yesterday morning Sir L P , Sir William Fowndes, Alderman Constantine, Alderman Mason, and Alderman French met accordingly, but none of the rest would come. They said they had come to an election on Tuesday last, which they had returned into the Council Office, and would come to no other election till they knew the fate of their last.

On Thursday night last the Bishop of Gloucester died at his house at Chelsea.

This day Monsieur Gaultier, the French Resident, set out from hence in order to return to France.

This day Daniel de Foe has been taken up for writing a paragraph in Hart's "Flying Post," for which Baker was the other day bound over and admitted to bail.

Mrs. D[ela] Manley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, August 30—I take leave to ask whether a true account of the changes made just before the death of the Queen would not be very acceptable to the public.

Your actions, always aiming at the good and glory of the nation, ought to be fairly represented to set those men right who only condemn for want of information.

Dampier, in the second volume of his Travels, has a relation of the Queen of Achin's court and country which would furnish a very commodious scene.

I should have waited upon you myself, but want of mourning keeps me in the country. The bill your Lordship was so good to send me went immediately to quiet uneasy creditors, and now I have nothing but a starving scene before me, new interests to make without any old merit, Lord Mal—— and all his accomplices justly enraged against me; nothing saved out of the general wreck, for what indeed could I save? your Lordship's bounty being all I ever received from the public for what some esteem good service to the cause; many persons prejudiced, but none in particular thinking themselves obliged.

Direct to me for Mrs. Markendale, at Mr. Patridge's house near Whetstone upon Finchley Common.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

[1714,] August 31—I had not given you the trouble of any of the little ruffles I meet with in the world, if it were not that I see

always some little strokes of malice in everything that pushes at me, pointing at your Lordship, who they would fain think they affront when they fall upon me. This makes it necessary for me to lay before you a brief history of fact in a broil which I have just now upon my hands, which would not be otherwise worth your hearing.

It has been long that I have been endeavouring to take off the virulence and rage of the "Flying Post." Mr. Moore has been witness to the design and to some of the measures I took for it, which were unsuccessful. After some time an occasion offered me which I thought might be improved effectually to overthrow it. The old author Redpath quarrelled with his printer Hurt, and takes the paper from him; Hurt sets up for himself and applies himself to a certain author to write it for him, but being not able to get anyone to publish it, he lost ground.

It occurred to me that to support Hurt would be the only way to bring the paper itself out of Redpath's hand, and to this intent I frequently at his request sent him paragraphs of foreign news, but declined meddling with home matters. The publisher received a letter very unhappily for me, and finding it full of reflections desired it to be softened, as he called it, and sends it to me. I left out, indeed, a great deal of scandalous stuff that was in it, but added nothing, and sent it back. This they have printed from my hand and I am charged as the author of the letter, am sent for by a warrant and held to bail.

The use they make of this is that I have insulted my Lord Anglesey, and that your Lordship has employed me to do so. God knows that all I did in it was to prevent their printing several scandalous reflections on his Lordship, which I therefore struck quite out, and wrote the rest over again. I humbly beg your intercession with my Lord Anglesey in this matter, assuring him I never knew anything in this matter other than the above, and did nothing in it but with design to serve his Lordship.

News Letter.

1714, August 31—There are great preparations making for the reception of his Majesty, especially by the citizens of London, in which city scaffolds will be erected for the several livery companies to stand upon. All the charity boys and girls that are put out by the citizens, and the inhabitants of the suburbs, are also to be on scaffolds that are to be erected from St. Dunstan's church in the West to the end of Shoe Lane in Fleet Street, and are to sing an anthem to the King as he passes by.

Two persons were taken up in Flanders and brought over hither on account of being enlisted for the Pretender, and are to be carried this evening before the Lord Chief Justice.

This day about noon the Lord Bolingbroke was removed out of the Cockpit as Secretary of State, the clerks dismissed, and the office shut up.

This day arrived two French mails, that the Duke of Berwick had put off the general assault till the twentieth, against which time he expects twenty battalions in the camp. Meantime the priests and people continue the most obstinate defence that ever was heard of.

NEWS LETTER.

1714, September 4—His Majesty brings over with him seventeen sets of fine coach horses. We hear the King will keep here a noble and splendid Court.

We hear that some persons of distinction are displeased with Matthew Prior, Esquire, for sending to the King despatches directly to him, without sending first here.

The Palace of St. James's is all hung with mourning.

One hundred thousand pounds is sent for to pay off those men-of-war at Plymouth which we mentioned in our last.

It is thought Doctor Finch, Dean of York, brother to the Earl of Nottingham, will be made Bishop of Ely.

It is said Sir William Windham will soon be removed from being Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The commission for Lords Justices of Ireland is now filled up, and it appears that the Archbishop of Tuam continues one of the Lords Justices of that Kingdom, and the Archbishop of Dublin and the Earl of Kildare are the other two that are appointed in the room of two honest gentlemen, viz., the Archbishop of Armagh, Lord Primate of Ireland, and Sir Constantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of that kingdom.

On Thursday morning last Viscount Bolingbroke had a very great levée of the nobility of the first rank, as also a great concourse of the clergy of the Church of England. His Lordship is going to divert himself at his seat at Bucklebury in Berkshire.

The Lord Chandos is so dangerously ill that his life is despaired of.

DR. THOMAS TUDWAY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, September 6. [Oxford]—We are preparing here to throw out Shepherd by promoting Mr. Slater's interest, a gentleman well known to you. We hope to do as much by Bromley when we can see who are best able to oppose him. Lords Nottingham and Suffolk, 'tis said, design to run a brace of sons against our present members, which I should be glad to see. The Whigs, if 'tis possible to convince them, would soon perceive the little interest they have in the University by such a trial of skill. They are pleased to give out that one of their schemes is, if they can get a Parliament for their turn, to renew the war, and unravel what the wisest and best counsels that ever were given have effected for us by making us happy in a peace.

Postscript.—The Bishop of London has my case before him, being now making the establishment of the Royal Chapel. Will your Lordship be pleased to further my interests by speaking favourably for me?

LORD JOHNSTONE to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, September [6-]17, N.S. Geneva—Your Lordship has all along been my patron and protector. You know well the state of my little affairs and the loss I have made by the death of the late Queen. I presume to trouble you once more on this subject, to beg your directions as to my future conduct on which none has so much right to determine as you, and since you were pleased to concern yourself so much in sending me abroad, I think myself obliged to beg your

orders as to my returning again into England or continuing my travels through Italy, if there are any hopes that the favours that we bestowed upon me by the late Queen, by your intercession, may still be continued to me.

J. MacGregory to the Earl of Oxford.

1714, September 11. Edinburgh—Foreseeing the confusion the Court would go into upon your Lordship's resignation, and that it would be some time ere things could be settled again in any tolerable order, after four years' stay at London I have thought fit to retire hither to pass the time awhile here, where I should be glad to think that, during my stay, I could contribute anything to serve you. I don't know what I can do that way, if it be not to give your Lordship an account of what passes here, which perhaps you will not think worth your while, or if it be you may have it from a better hand.

Everything here is very quiet and has been so ever since the late Queen's demise, beyond the expectation of us all. The Jacobites had great hopes of what would happen upon her Majesty's decease, the Whigs fears, and the Tories did not know what to think of it; but all appears now to have been groundless. It would seem the Pretender either has no friends here, or if he has, they are very inconsiderable, for nothing has been attempted in his favour all this while, but two little riots scarce worth the taking notice of.

The first was at Glasgow the day of the King's proclamation, the pulling down of an Episcopal meeting-house by an unknown mob, hired to do so by the Episcopalians themselves on purpose to throw dirt on the Presbyterians, as if they were beginning early to raise a persecution against them in King George's time, and to create other mischief if they could. The second was, the night before the proclamation at Aberdeen, several persons, after having drunk well the Pretender's health at the tavern, came out masked about two or three in the morning and proclaimed him, after their way, all over the town. In the evening the boys and apprentices went about throwing stones at the windows that had lights, especially where lodged an English gauger belonging to the Excise, who thereupon fired small shot among them, and so shattered a boy's arm that his life is despaired of. This is all that the Jacobites have been able to do for the Pretender here, and that the Whigs have been so bloodily afraid of; and what is very remarkable, the hopes of the first are so quashed, that now they begin to own that if King George does come into England and is crowned in peace, they have done with it for ever; and the last are offended at nothing now so much as the non-action of the Jacobites, who thereby give them the lie and falsify all their clamours as well as render their fears ridiculous. As for the many stories mentioned in the "Flying Post," they are mere stories that we here know nothing of.

Before the Queen died, some gentlemen here well affected to the House of Hanover, invented a badge (of which the enclosed is the figure) to distinguish themselves by in case of any trouble before, at, or after her Majesty's death. 'Tis of the bigness of a St. Andrew such as the Knights of that Order wear; of gold, silver, or brass, as people have a mind to purchase it, not solid, as medals are, but trellis-work, or what the French call *ouvrage au jour*; to be worn

about the neck under the waistcoat in an orange ribbon; but the peaceable situation we are in has discouraged the use of it.

The town of Glasgow having some time ago sent a letter with a Burgess ticket to the Duke of Cambridge, his Highness has lately answered it with a very handsome letter, of which the enclosed is a copy.

My Lord, this is all extraordinary here at present, if it be acceptable to your Lordship I am glad of it. I should be proud of the honour to receive and obey your commands in anything I could do here, where I am to be heard of at the Exchange Coffee House.

Enclosure.

The Duke of Cambridge to the Magistrates of Glasgow.

1714, le 16 Août. Hannover—On m'a envoyé ici la lettre obligeante que vous m'avez ecrit du 30 d'Avril, avec un Billet de Bourgeoisie. Ces marques de l'attachement de votre ville pour la succession Protestante, et pour moi en particulier, m'ont fait un veritable plaisir. Je vous prie de croire que j'en fais tout le cas que je dois, et que j'embrasserai avec empressement toutes les occasions qui se pourront presenter de vous en témoigner ma reconnaissance. En sorte que si la Providence Divine appelle cette maison à la couronne de Grande Bretagne votre ville puisse en recevoir toute la protection que son zèle me vite je travaillerai autant qui dependera de moi à la lui procurer, étant, Messieurs, &c.

[*At the back of this copy is pasted a drawing of "The Reverse" and "The Front" of the badge described in the letter.*]

[The Earl of Oxford to his son, Lord Harley.]

1714, September 18—This evening about six (as I guess by the Tower guns) the King landed at Greenwich. It is eleven at night and I have not heard anything from thence yet. I propose to go to-morrow morning early to make my court, but I believe the entry will not be made until Monday or perhaps Tuesday.

Yesterday Lord Townshend (by the King's order by letter) was sworn by the Lords Justices Secretary of State in Lord Bolingbroke's room; some think this a great disappointment to Lord Sunderland.

Endorsed by Lord Harley:—"Received Sep. 20 by John the running footman, at Wimp[o]le."

[Lady Dupplin] to Abigail Harley, at Eywood.

1714, September 21. London—Thank God I can tell my dear aunt that I am very well and get strength. I have not ventured yet into the parlour. I sat at home yesterday very contentedly when all the town was gazing at the fine show, it was so contrived that it was dark when the King came into the Strand, so from thence to St. James's they had not the satisfaction of seeing his Majesty. The show altogether was very fine, but a vast mob and crowd; there was great bonfires and illuminations at night. I have no news to send you but what I believe is in print, that the Duke of Ormond was out on Sunday and the Duke of Marlborough made General, and to-day I hear Lord Chancellor is out: I suppose the

new Chancellor will be declared to-night. Aboard the yacht the King made the Earls Berkeley and Dorset Gentlemen of his Bedchamber. The Duke of Argyll is Groom of the Stole to the Prince, Lord Hertford and Lord Lumley Gentlemen of the Bedchamber, and Colonel Oughton Groom of the Bedchamber to the Prince. I hear Lord Lincoln is master of the horse to the Prince, but I cannot tell whether that is true or not.

[The Earl of Oxford to Lord Harley, at Wimpole.]

1714, September 23—The prints will give you the names of the changes already made, by which you will judge of the expedition they make, and no doubt will go through the whole. I suppose Dupplin and Mansel must quickly make way.

This night at eight Lord Mar was out, and the Duke of Montrose in his room. Annandale will succeed Findlater, and the Duke of Roxburgh Atholl in the Privy Seal, and Polwarth will be Lord Justice Clerk and Rothes Lord Register.

Zeal for the succession and loyalty will not be extraordinary advocates for any to keep their places who have no other characteristic.

[Daniel De Foe to the Earl of Oxford.]

1714, September 28—It is not want of duty or of a sense of duty that I have lain still at a time when others take such an unbounded liberty, but in such a juncture who can direct his own steps? I presume the artifice of the present politicians is now to have it believed that all who acted under the late administration were enemies to the succession of the present King, and in such a stream as now runs such absurdities may go down, how evident soever the contrary may be. Honest men then must reserve themselves for better fortunes, and for times when truth may be more quietly heard.

In the meantime, as I am and I shall be ever watchful for your Lordship's interest, I could not but send the enclosed to you, which came to my hand very oddly, but is the original and as directed was sent to the writer of "Dyer's News" to publish. That it was written in town is most probable, because there is a frank on the outside, and yet no postmark on the back, and the frank I suppose is a counterfeit also. Your Lordship will know what use to make of it, without shewing the superscription. Meantime I have obtained that it shall not be put into the newsletter if they keep their word with me. I cannot but humbly remind your Lordship of the case between my Lord Anglesey, &c. I hope you will prevail with him to drop a prosecution which none but his enemies prompt him to, and against a man that did nothing but with a sincere design to serve him, having done nothing towards the letter published but taken out what was most injurious to him.

God preserve your Lordship from the rage of those who, having long had a will, now think they have power to hurt you.

The Duke of Shrewsbury to [Matthew Prior?].

1714, October 4. London—Though I have been silent I have never neglected your concerns. When my Lord Oxford quitted the staff,

he had ordered some money for you and several others to the value of 60,000*l.* or 70,000*l.*; those who were to succeed him got her Majesty before her illness to defer the giving out or satisfying those orders till they should be further considered. After her Majesty's death I could issue no money of that nature without a sign manual from the Lords Justices, who reasonably declined any distribution of money but what directly tended to the preserving the peace in Britain, so I did not think fit upon that and other accounts to apply to them in your particular. Since his Majesty's arrival I have several times mentioned to him the difficulties and hardship you lie under; he seems to enter very justly and favourably into them, but as your arrears are a part of her late Majesty's debts, and they were very considerable, though I have good reason to believe what was due to the Queen at her demise will more than pay that debt, yet the King is desirous to see a state of that matter before he begins to pay, which could not be done immediately, and is, I think, the only cause which delays the dispatch of your affair. I am so sensible of the difficulties you lie under upon this account that if I had power to remedy them they should soon be removed, and I make no doubt but when his Majesty has gone through those forms he has prescribed himself, justice will be done you, and in whatever I can serve you, you may assuredly depend upon my friendship.

ISRAEL FIELDING to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1714, October 3. Denmark Street, near Soho Square—Her late Majesty was pleased to order my youngest son to be registered her boy in the Charterhouse, as a small mark of kindness to the deceased mother, without either my seeking or interposition. It happens he is the only sufferer by her death in that kind. Your Lordship hath the next choice, and I believe there is a vacancy for it, too, at this juncture. If you will please by your letter to make good her Majesty's kind intentions you will do a great favour to a family that wants it.

MATTHEW DECKER to [LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole].

1714, October 5. London—Being extremely pressed for money puts his Lordship in mind of the expiration of the time of repayment of the sum advanced to him, not doubting that he will remit an order on his goldsmith or steward on as short sight as is possible.

W. BROMLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, October 6, past 9 of the clock—A succession of company ever since I dined have prevented me waiting on your Lordship as I intended this evening, and now it is too late to trouble you, because I propose to go very early to-morrow morning. Indeed I am in haste to be gone, for it has been very irksome to me to be here, lest I should be thought to be hankering after what I have no reason to expect on my own terms, and I am sure I will not take on other.

THE CORONATION OF GEORGE I.

1714, October 6. St. James's—Command under royal sign manual to the "Earl of Oxford and Earl Mortimer," (all excuses set apart) to make his personal attendance on the King on October 20, the day appointed for the coronation, furnished and appointed as to his rank and quality appertains. Signed by the Earl of Suffolk, Earl Marshal.

Accompanying this is a printed circular letter from Lord Suffolk, dated from Suffolk Street, October 7, 1714, desiring Lord Oxford to send word whether he can attend at the coronation or not; and whether the Countess, his wife, will come (as a spectator only), to the end that room may be the better provided both in Westminster Hall and the Abbey, for such as shall be present.

JO. TAYLOUR to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, October 7—Statement showing that the tax on the salary of the Lord Treasurer for the midsummer quarter and thirty-five days of the Michaelmas quarter (to July 29) would amount to 215*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

Attached is an acknowledgment signed by Lord Oxford, that he has received from the Duke of Shrewsbury the arrears due from the Treasury, amounting to 501*l.* 11*s.* 4½*d.*, after the above deduction and a further one of 5*l.* 1*s.* have been made.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, October 11. Windsor Castle—I should be very unworthy of the honour of your Lordship's protection and friendship, if anything could give me so much uneasiness as the thoughts of making you so, therefore beg you will be assured your commands shall be always punctually obeyed by me, and desire the character of an honest man no longer than I acknowledge the obligations I have to you. I believe you will find it impracticable for me to continue any time in the post I am without a submission you would not approve of, for more than an equality I never pretended to, and that I cannot help thinking I have reason to expect.

GILBERT, BISHOP OF SALISBURY, Chancellor of the Garter, to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1714, October 13—Summoning him to attend a chapter of the Order of the Garter at St. James's on Saturday, the 16th inst., at four o'clock. *Signed.*

J. MACKGREGORY to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1714, October 16. Edinburgh—I have lately had occasion to talk freely with some of the chiefs of the Jacobite party here, and I find (what I think very remarkable) that they have been strangely surprised and taken unawares at the Queen's death, which is the true reason of their doing nothing for their young master, as they call him. They say, that so long as the Whigs had the Ministry in their hands and they thought their master's interest in danger,

they were at a great deal of pains, and some charges, too, to be always upon their guard, by having arms and horses both for themselves and followers always at hand, by holding an intercourse one with another by letters, messengers or personal meetings sometimes at what they call their Highland Huntings, where they concerted from time to time what they were to do when any imminent opportunity should happen to them, and so were always in readiness to do something; but when the Tories came into the Ministry they thought their master's interest secure, and they became so too, giving over all their care and diligence, and reckoning that they had nothing then to do but to wait and obey the orders which they expected to be sent them from above when any opportunity offered, specially such a one as the Queen's death; which when it happened their expectation was at the crisis, where it continued till they saw that grand opportunity lost, and then their hopes sunk into despair, so that now they own frankly that their master has done with *(sic)* for ever. They are very angry with themselves for being so secure, and full of resentment against those who they say gave them ground to be so (though they cannot deny but that ground was most assumed to themselves than given by others), especially the Scotch, and among the English they make no distinction betwixt your Lordship and my Lord Bolingbroke, which shows how ill they are instructed in Court affairs; and in that they agree with the Whigs, who do the same out of design, whereas these Jacobites do it only out of ignorance. Your Lordship never wants, where I am, the justice done you, which I truly think you deserve. I must tell your Lordship likewise that I think I have some reason to believe that the two letters in the "Post Boy" of the 7th instant concerning the Highlanders are false and suppositious, consequently those who pretend to have procured them are but indifferent people, and I would advise you to have a care of them.

I have sent your Lordship enclosed an abominable piece of Jacobitish nonsense, which, I think, deserves to be taken notice of. 'Tis truly printed at Glasgow, and commonly sold here. The author is said to be one Mr. Anderson, the Presbyterian minister of Dumbarton, formerly an Episcopal minister. The curse is done by one Mr. Robert Caddel, a non-juring Episcopal minister; and the verses upon the King's Proclamation Day by Sir Archibald Sinclair, a Jacobitish advocate; those at the end are Mr. Anderson's.

I can now tell you which of all the conjectures about the author of the Memoirs of Scotland, lately printed, is thought to be the most probable by those of the best sense here, viz., that they were done by one Dr. Abercromby, a Roman Catholic physician, and brother to the Lord Glassford, a baron made by King James before his abdication. He is indeed a liker man than all the others who are named put together are, being one of the best education, both at home and abroad (except his religion), of complete learning and erudition, and a famous author already by a book in folio, entitled, "The Martial Achievements of the Scots Warriors," the first volume of which is printed and to be sold at a Scotch bookseller's in Cornhill, the other is ready for the press. However, this is still no more than a conjecture, and uncertain; but what is remarkable, whereas he always lived here in very good business about six months ago, just when the noise of these Memoirs broke out at London, he left all here and retired to his own county of Forfar; by which one would think he seems to own himself guilty.

In my last I told your Lordship that these Memoirs were originally done by somebody to expose the Pretender's enemies to his knowledge against he should come home (though the publishers have turned them so as to make them expose the Pretender's friends, as they give them out to be, to the King's knowledge against his coming over) in imitation of some Memoirs formerly done by the Earl of Balcarres, one of King James's favourites among the Scotch, to expose his Majesty's enemies, at and after the Revolution, to his knowledge against he should be restored, which have always continued a manuscript to this day. They are dedicated and presented to King James, being designed only for his information and use, and take up eighteen or twenty sheets in such a hand as mine is. If your Lordship wants a copy of them 'tis what I can procure you.

[Lady Dupplin] to Abigail Harley, at Eywood.

1714, October 21. London—I can now write but a few words to my dear aunt, and it is to tell you that all our friends are very well after the fatigue of yesterday.

I dined with my father to-day; tell my aunt both her sons are safe and well. They being desirous to see the show, my Lord gave them tickets for the Hall, and sent Mr. Hay (who you have seen here) to take care of them. They are very well, and got safe to Mrs. Beresford's afterwards. I had not curiosity enough to be in so great a crowd, so I stayed at home contentedly and saw none of it. There was a sad accident happened, two scaffolds fell down and several people killed. The number is not agreed on, but certainly there was between twenty and thirty; it makes one melancholy to hear of it. One scaffold was in the Palace Yard, another was over against the Abbey.

The Earl of Halifax to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, October 28—I hope you will believe I will endeavour to serve you in the affair you mention, when I tell you I have kept my word and saved Lord Dupplin from the Dead Warrant, which came down to me [*or* one] against him.

You know best whether anything can be done on your part. I shall have anger enough for what is past.

[The Earl of Oxford] to Lord Harley at Wimpole.

1714, November 2—I have been but once out of the house since Friday, having much pain, which I suppose the fatigue of the Coronation brought upon me.

On Saturday last at twelve at night, one Captain Oldes was killed in this walk by one Captain Watts; it is a blind story they tell of it.

I am very sorry to tell you that yesterday Dr. Radcliffe died of an apoplexy at Carshalton; he was struck when he came from church. I do not hear the particulars of his will, but I believe he has left 40,000*l.* to the University.

Thomas Coke, Vice Chamberlain, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, November 12—Hearing you would be willing to part with the piece of ground which goes to new buildings in St. James's Square,

behind your offices, if you could have the charcoal house and the ground it stands upon to build your library, I beg to know your mind upon it, that if you are willing to have the exchange it may be put in the way of being perfected to the advantage of his Majesty's service and your accommodation.

Attached is a paper specifying the grounds and buildings about St. James's Square, to be exchanged between the King and Lord Oxford.

[The Earl of Oxford] to Lord Harley.

1714, November 13—Philips, the Pastoral man, newly made preceptor to the two young Princes, is turned out.

It is said Lord Northampton is out. The Duke of Shrewsbury is newly gone into Oxfordshire, and I believe will scarce keep his staff long.

It is said that Dr. Freind is turned out from being a chaplain; if that be so I cannot imagine the reason.

[The Earl of Oxford to Dr. W. Stratford?]

1714, November 23—It is impossible to conceive the distraction which reigns here. Germans and Whigs divided amongst themselves, and the two parties now hang out their colours and draw up in battle array. Nothing but the fear of the Tories keeps them from outraging each other; yet it must be said that the Tories are very quiet though active in elections, a sullen passiveness is predominant, which has in all times at length broken out fatally to the Ministry.

It is impossible to guess what will arise out of this confusion any more than to judge of the event of madmen's contrivances. They seem very much to distrust their elections, by the extraordinary methods they use to obtain them.

The Whigs brag in print they caused the two books of the White Staff to be written; and the policy is plain. He ought to be treated as a fool who had the staff, if he ever encouraged a vindication.

The King of Sweden's unexpected arrival at Stralsund gave great alarm last night, and is like to produce great events.

Dr. W. Stratford to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, November 24. [Oxford]—No one that reflects on the present measures but thinks they who are now in power design somewhat desperate if they continue, and will attempt anything of that nature rather than quit their hold. Nor does any serious man expect anything but confusion in either case. I hear from a very sure hand that Sir Thomas Hanmer and his associates look upon their own game as gone, and they will, I believe, in a few days, be louder malcontents than any of the Tories that were last proscribed.

The report about the author of the "White Staff," though industriously propagated, begins like others that have such a foundation to die of itself. But though your old enemies contrived it, I am afraid your Lordship's old friends had the greatest share in spreading it. The "Considerations" was printed by Lintot, and we have sure intelligence that young Steady was often at Lintot's whilst that was in the press.

The accounts we have here from all parts inform us that the people are very well disposed against the next elections, if gentlemen had but hearts or parts to head them and encourage them. But opposition is made in all places possible, and no money spared. And we are told that we lose many in Cornwall by the double Mayors that are set up here in many boroughs.

I expect Mr. Bromley here at Dr. Radcliffe's funeral. The time is not yet fixed. The funeral will be with the same solemnity that Bodley's was.

The Earl of Uxbridge to [the Earl of Oxford].

1714, November 27. Jermyn Street—I had company with me when the porter brought me your kind present of *Eau de Barbade*. I could not, therefore, till now return my most humble thanks for the favour. Everything that gives me leave to think I am not forgotten by one I have had so long a service for is very agreeable to me.

Dr. Arthur Charlett to Humphrey Wanley, at the Earl of Oxford's House in York Buildings.

1714, November 30. University College, Oxford—The bearer is Mr. Williamson, of Queen's College, the editor of Aristotle, who comes to wait upon you for help and instructions. Our ancient marbles are all taken out of the naked walls of the Theatre to be placed in a true method in the windows of the school galleries by the accurate and sagacious Dr. Halley, both for greater safety and use.

The old Philosophers' heads also are all refreshing by the painter.

Postscript.—When Dr. Radcliffe's executors think fit to build my lodgings, I shall desire the use of your name to belong to one of the new rooms as it did to the old.

News Letter.

1714, December 9—This day was performed the ceremony of the installation of the Dukes of Bolton and Rutland, the Earls of Dorset and Middlesex, and the Earl of Halifax at Windsor, Knights Companions of the most noble order of the Garter.

The Lord Townshend is recovered of his indisposition.

Mr. Han, an eminent merchant, son of Sir Joseph Han, deceased, is lately married to Mrs. Mordaunt, a beauty, daughter of Sir John Mordaunt, Knight of the Shire for Warwick. The Reverend Mr. Sprat, Archdeacon of Rochester, son of the late bishop of that diocese, also lately married to Mrs. Harding, likewise a beautiful lady.

Doctor Lloyd, Chancellor of Worcester, is lately made a prebendary of that church.

Major General Macartney, who is at Ostend, has sent over a petition in order to have his outlawry reversed, being desirous to stand upon his trial. The petition was read in Council, and a long debate ensued. The Duke of M[arlborough] pleaded for the petitioner, and the Duke of Argyll, and some others of the Scotch nobility against him, However, an order was made upon the petition and sent to the Attorney General, and to acquaint the Duchess of Hamilton with the matter, and to know what objection her Grace had to make against

reversing the said petition and reversing the said outlawry, and it is thought she will be heard by her counsel (in Council), and deliver in a memorial in opposition to the same. The Duke of Argyll and several of the Scots nobility went, immediately upon the breaking up of the Council, to the Duchess, to assure her of their interest.

The Earl of Peterborough went last week for Turin; he stayed two days at Paris.

Captain Henry Baker is put in his place again as surveyor of the riding officers on the coast of Kent and Sussex, in the room of Thomas Lambert, esquire.

John Cotton, esquire, is made steward of the Court of Westminster, in the room of Thomas Medlycots, esquire, Mr. Annesley refusing that place.

The King sups to-night at Sir Thomas Hanmer's.

THOMAS COKE, Vice-Chamberlain, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, December 10 and 14—Acquainting him that his Majesty would buy his term of the whole grant [of "St. James's House," *endorsed*], and his Lordship is desired to make his demand as to price; and that the writer will wait upon Lord Oxford to treat about it.

VISCOUNT TOWNSHEND, Secretary of State, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1714, December 20. Whitehall—I have received the honour of your letter, together with that enclosed in it from Stephenson, who, I am persuaded, is a very great rogue. I will make all the search I can for the two packets of letters you mention, and in case they are in the Office, I will be sure to transmit them to you.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL and the EARL OF STRAFFORD.

1714-15, January 11—Minutes of Privy Council proceedings, in the handwriting of the Marquis of Wharton:—

The Earl of Nottingham, President, sent a Clerk of the Council to the Earl of Strafford that the King expected he should attend him that day at eleven o'clock at the Council. The Earl of Strafford having before desired Lord President to ask of the King that he might be sworn of the Council (as usual to Ambassadors at their return), his Lordship might apprehend that he was summoned for that end.

The Council met, Earl of Strafford called in. Lord President told him that, it being the custom that Ambassadors, at their return, should render an account to the King in Council, of their negotiations, his Majesty had now sent for him for that end (as he had required him before by a Secretary of State); and that, in order to it, it was his Majesty's pleasure that he should deliver to the Secretaries of State all his instructions, orders, letters, copies of letters, &c., relating thereto.

Earl of Strafford said, he owned it was his duty to render such an account, that whilst the King was at the Hague, he had prepared and laid before him such an account as he thought proper thereof, that he hoped he should have since allowed to digest into order what he had to say. That he had but few papers here, a great part of them being in his baggage, not yet come from the ships. Being

asked if all there, said, he had part here. That he executed what he had in charge, as a faithful servant to the Queen, as a good subject, and as a true Englishman. That he desired he should be considered, that in the negotiations of peace he was but second plenipotentiary. That the Bishop of Bristol, as the first, had all the originals, and he only copies.

Earl of Strafford withdrawn. Long silence before any motion made. Lord Wharton at last moved that the Earl of Strafford should be told that the King would immediately send the Secretaries of State with him, to receive such papers, &c., as he had in town. Lord Sunderland of the same opinion, and also that other persons should be sent, with such as the Earl of Sunderland should appoint, to seal up all boxes, &c., with his baggage.

This pretty warmly opposed by Duke of Shrewsbury as what had been never done to any Ambassador, and assuming those papers being his evidence.

The King said it had been done to Lord Townshend. Lord Townshend: That he was directed at his return to deliver up all his papers, and that he, for that reason, never went any whither without them, but that they were never called for.

Duke of Shrewsbury replied that it was unnecessary, because all papers, &c., sent or received, had duplicates of them in the Secretary's office; that when that office was searched he never saw papers in so good order. Lord Wharton replied, that for that very reason it was fit now to demand his papers, &c., because upon perusing papers in the office, it was found that there were many papers wanting.

Earl of Strafford called. Lord President declared the King's pleasure. Earl of Strafford, that he was much surprised to be so treated, like a criminal, that he was a peer, that this was the first instance of any so treated, that he had many papers of private concern, not fit to be laid before the King, and all in confusion. That it would be a great discredit to him; spoke much of his innocence, hoped he should be trusted, that he would not run away out of his coach, desired he might go away, as if he were taken in custody by a couple of Secretaries. (The first part of his discourse in a submissive strain very often, but the latter part disordered.) Withdrew. When he came out, he beckoned the Envoy of Sweden, and whispered him, who went straight away. Earl of Strafford followed in a very little time. Lord Townshend and Secretary Stanhope went after him to his house, stayed a quarter of an hour. Earl of Strafford then carried them down to a closet, opened several cabinets, &c., bid them take what they thought fit. They said they would take nothing but what he delivered to them. He then took out several books, and desired them to see if they were what they wanted. They refused again to look, but said they would only take what he gave them. After much dispute of this kind, he filled two boxes of papers, and they were tied up; and when they came to be sealed, he refused to put his seal, saying that would be to consent to what was done. To which it was replied that nothing had been, nor should be, done without his consent; and that if he did not seal them they would not meddle with them, but would acquaint the King. He at last sealed the tape where it was tied, and the two Secretaries also put their seals, and carried the boxes away to the Council Chamber, where they were also sealed by the Lord President.

The Clerks of the Council, and under secretaries who were sent to seal up the baggage, met the waggons coming into St. James's Square, took out, and sealed up the several parcels in them, and put them into a stable, the door of which they also sealed up.

ANTHONY MURRAY to the [EARL OF OXFORD].

1714-15, February 1. London—Having been sent by your means to Hanover in April last with a verbal and secret commission to keep a good correspondence between her Majesty and our present King, as her Majesty's resident, I earnestly pray you to send me a letter to Mr. Taylor, Secretary of the Treasury, who knows that I had 100*l.* to pay my charges in going there, that I may be paid the further sum justly due to me, at the rate of 3*l.* a day, out of the great sums her Majesty left for the satisfaction of her debts.

Direct to me in Broad Street, near the Golden Square.

[THE EARL OF OXFORD to LORD HARLEY.]

1714-15, February 1. Brampton Castle—Yesterday was the election of Bishops Castle. Your uncle and cousin Harley went there on Saturday, thought all was safe; but Mason came in, and they pretend that you lost it by four voices. They were come to that extravagance and impudence as to ask yesterday morning 50*l.* a vote. Your uncle came very weary hither last night, and so vexed with their villainous treachery at Bishops Castle that he wrote to Leominster he would not come thither, the election being this day, but in the night a messenger came from his friends to entreat him to come; and accordingly he went at five this morning. He had last week a majority of forty votes, but Coningsby has spared neither bribes nor threats. I have not heard what the event is, but that you will hear directly from Leominster.

To-morrow is Radnor. I have taken all the care I can to make a good cause of it, for I have proof that Harton is determined not to return you, let the majority be what it will.

[ABIGAIL HARLEY to LORD HARLEY.]

1714-15, February 4—When I writ to your Lordship Tuesday evening, could give no account of the elections, only in general heard Bishops Castle was lost, and from several good hands that it was thought Leominster would be so too, though to the honour of that Corporation, their Recorder carried it by 19, and, had there been occasion, had a reserve of single votes. The Lord Lieutenant (Coningsby) did not think fit to appear in person, his lady was said to be dead the night before (I am assured she was alive this morning).

Tuesday night, about 11 o'clock, the Governor (Auditor Harley) came home, miserably fatigued, had not slept for several nights, but to tell you the truth what oppressed his mind was the villanous roguery he met with at Bishops Castle, where, on Sunday night, he thought himself secure, having not bare promises, but under their hands of a great majority. Mason was never seen till Monday morning, when bank bills and money fled about, 10*l.* a man was given, to some 40*l.* and 50*l.*, that it is no wonder he got a majority of three. I think your uncle perplexes himself too much lest it

should be thought he failed in not doing what he ought, when it is certain there can be no security against such profligate wretches; the bribery can be proved plainly upon them. Wednesday morning they went to Radnor, where the bailiff had not manners enough to stay till your uncle and your friends came, which was immediately after nine o'clock, and found them in Court, which was six hours sooner than legally they could meet. Young Harton was the candidate. Your uncle told them he must take the oath as to his qualification. At last, in the face of the country, took it trembling, most that were there knowing him perjured. Then your friends demanded how they would poll, desired the four out boroughs might first be polled, that they might be dismissed. This was refused, and the bailiff declared he would poll the 251 new burgesses made by himself. Your uncle told him he excepted against them all as illegal, and bid him poll them at his peril. Upon his proceeding, all your friends agreed it most honourable to leave the Court, which they did. The bailiff polled his new ones and a few old, then closed the poll, returned Lewis and carried him bravely. As for the old burgesses, you had by computation a majority of about 90, but 251 was odds against that, that all agree was the only way which was taken to treat them with contempt. The bailiff often declared he would return Lewis, choose or no.

[The Earl of Oxford to Lord Harley.]

1714-15. February 6. Eywood—They have countermanded the notice for the county election, seeing after all their threats and villainy you had such a great majority, and put it off for several days.

At Leominster all the people of substance were with your uncle, and despised the threats and bribes of Coningsby. At Hereford it is carried for cousin Foley first and Lord Scudamore next by some hundreds, though Philpot has spent above 3,000*l*.

I desire you will speak to Mr. Thomas about Sir R. Davers' house, and also that which was Earl Rivers' in Great Queen Street; there are two houses, and I know one is very fit for a library. I hear Mons. Iberville is leaving it.

[The Earl of Oxford to Lord Harley.]

1714-15, February 14. Eywood—There is to be a meeting of the gentlemen of Radnorshire, to consider to-morrow what is to be done, and to collect materials of proofs. The Sheriff on Wednesday last refused to go to the election, though he had given notice of it all over the country by written proclamations, and it is put off to February 22. One David Davies, an active, strong man at Ruyder (?) for Mr. Harley, was last week set upon, his life is in danger; this is the third instance of late on the same score, and the lives of all are yet in danger, and no justice is to be had to commit the murderers. As to the petition, care will be taken that you have one, and all materials ready in due time; there is no haste, so it be put in before the Speaker be chosen.

[Dr. Jonathan Swift to Lord Harley.]

1714-15, March 8, Dublin—Since I left England I have not seen a newspaper, nor have above three or four times heard anybody talk

of what passes in the world. It is the only receipt I have to possess any degree of quiet. T'other day I was told it was in the printed papers that the best lady in the world had lately brought one of her own sex into it, for which I do most heartily congratulate with your Lordship and her, and I hope to live long enough to send you half a dozen letters of congratulation upon the same account; only my Lady must take care now and then to vary the sex. I hope her Ladyship's health is by this time quite re-established, and that she can run up to the nursery to visit her little infant. I could be almost angry that your Lordship did not consider what a part I take in everything that concerns you, at whatsoever distance I am; for then you would have contrived I might have known a thing of so much importance by a surer way than common report. But a circumstance shall not make me quarrel with what I like, and since you want no addition of fortune or honour, I shall pray God to preserve your health, and increase your family. I must say one thing more, that though these are not times for raillery, I am impatient to see my little niece.

Pray tell my Lady that I have broke my heart with breaking her snuff box. I put it in a close pocket, when I was on horseback, and forgot to remove it when I alighted, and so overlaid it, as a mother does a child she is too fond of. But the matter cannot rest thus. I tax her Ladyship with five guineas, which she must lay out on an etui, just such a one as your Lordship's, with shagreen outside, and silver instruments. I cannot easily break that. Pray let my Lady buy it immediately with her own hands; or if she will not do that, let me have two small copies of her picture and your Lordship. They will not come to above five pounds each, for I am tender of your purse.

Another thing you must both promise me, that whenever these gentlemen in power shall think fit to destroy the Church, and abolish bishoprics and deaneries as wicked and useless, you will settle on me 50*l.* a year to live in Guernsey, for there I am determined, because wine and victuals are cheap in that island, and I promise when I am an old gentleman to come back and be a tutor to your children. Perhaps I am not so much in jest as you may believe, for there is nothing too bad to be apprehended, in my opinion, from the present face of things.

[The Earl of Carlisle to Lord ———.]

1714-15, February 20. Castle Howard—I am told we shall have a petition against us from Mr. Douglas and his partner, which, if so, I suppose will prevent a new election till the petition is heard; but if that shou.d not happen I am sorry I cannot serve Mr. Brudenel upon this occasion, being under a former engagement.

I hope you will have no reason to find fault with the Northern elections. I will take care to hasten the members up, as far as I am concerned, that they may be present at the choice of the Speaker.

There goes a story in the country of Sir Arthur Kaye's sending a bundle of the pamphlets entitled "Advice to the Freeholders" to the Wakefield sessions, to be distributed there. It is certain such a bundle was brought by a carrier, and delivered to a Tory justice there upon the Bench, but how far they can fix it upon Sir Arthur

I cannot tell. However, hearing that the Bench did not take that notice of it which I think they should have done, I have sent to Mr. Bright, who, I hear, was present when the packet was delivered, to let him know that he ought to examine the carrier and send up his examination, with what he knows of the fact. If it can be fixed upon Sir Arthur, I hope it may be thought at least a sufficient cause to expel him the House.

J[OHN] D[RUMMOND] to the EARL OF OXFORD, Brampton Castle.

1714-15. March. Saturday night. London—The gentleman, by whom this will have the honour to be delivered to your Lordship, going out of town one day sooner than he proposed, Mr. Thomas has not been able to give me notice of his resolution till late this night, otherwise your Lordship would have received a much longer letter by him.

My Lord Bolingbroke has been a fortnight in town, and has been pleased to desire frequent visits from me, though I have not gone oftener than I have been sent for, and also of late by the Duke of Ormond, who seems very desirous of seeing you here, the Parliament being (by all accounts that can be had) to sit on the seventeenth. My Lord Harcourt is expected this night, and would have been here sooner, had he not had the misfortune to fall down some stairs, and hurt himself. Most of the Tory Lords, especially the young people, are in town, and the Duke of Ormond has them often together.

The general discourse is impeaching for high crimes and misdemeanours, even Lechmere says they cannot find treason, but my Lord Bolingbroke's great concern seems to be that those who ought to stand together in supporting the Queen's administration are like to be brought in to accuse the one the others, pretending to be well informed, that amongst the Queen's papers several of your Lordship's letters are found accusing him to her Majesty of several intrigues to his own advantage to the public prejudice, and both Lord Harcourt and him of Jacobitism. He seems very desirous to know your resolutions as to your joint behaviour with them or abandoning them. I cannot omit to mention to you that at his first coming up his concern in this juncture seemed to exceed his good sense, and the Duke of Ormond was so much of that opinion that his Grace has pleased to tell me to preach up courage to him. I find he has grown easier since, and I have espied a new friend or two whom I believe he had not long counted on. It is again talked that the Duke of Marlborough is going to Vienna, his Grace goes to-morrow to Blenheim house for a week. I mean to be back in a week.

Lord Wharton's son has married himself privately to Colonel Holmes's daughter, which is a great disappointment and regret to his unregretted father.

It is said that Lord Albemarle keeps in the Duke of Shrewsbury, who is full of resentment, Lord Halifax is ill-treated also, and Lord Anglesey and Sir Thomas [Hanmer] are both out of Court. The former is raging. The Bishop of London is well recovered and hearty; Lord Strafford daily expected up from Yorkshire; Lords Marlborough and Albemarle seem very cool.

Duyvenvorde makes his public entry next week. He has treated the Duke of Marlborough and Ministers of State highly.

Lord Stair is like to succeed better in his negotiations at Paris than Cadogan at Vienna, from whence Lord Cobham has desired to come home.

JOHN DRUMMOND to LORD HARLEY at St. James's.

1714-15, March. Sunday, at noon—Lord Bolingbroke is engaged at seven, and prays that you may make it an hour later, and orders me to assure you that before nine he will certainly be at my house to wait upon your Lordship. I hope this will be no great inconvenience to you, seeing your conference will not be long.

[EDWARD HARLEY, Auditor of the Exchequer, to his brother, the EARL OF OXFORD.]

[1715, March 31.] Friday, 11 at night—The public prints are full of Lord Bolingbroke being gone to France. By whom this has been managed is not difficult to guess, when you reflect upon the transactions of last year. It was kept a secret from Lord Trevor and other his friends till he was gone. What turn this will have is hard to guess.

It is very happy that your Lordship was not here before this flight, which will now precipitate their proceedings. They have moved for all the papers relating to the peace to be laid before the House of Commons this day, and it is said they will immediately proceed upon them; I therefore hope this will find you on the road, for your absence now will be of very ill consequence.

By all that I can find they have no letter or paper that can directly charge your Lordship. It was yesterday Lord Trevor's opinion that they would not proceed in their impeachment, but improve the flight of Lord Bolingbroke to all the advantages they could propose from them.

I hope your Lordship has taken effectual care of the papers that you bring up, that they may be safe by being brought hither, or where they may be secure; and for those in the country why should they not be sent to Eywood?

The Almighty, who has so often delivered, will, I trust, in His boundless mercy, yet protect and preserve you from the rage of violent men. That all these dispensations may be sanctified to raise our souls to the views of that bliss where is endless rest and joy, is my constant prayer.

I had yesterday an intimation that the Earl of Albemarle was got much in the King's favour, and become a rival to the Duke of M[arlborough], but this is uncertain.

This house is at your Lordship's service when you think it will be more convenient to be here than with your son.

Forgive me that I once more repeat the necessity of your hastening to town.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford.—"B[rother] Edward dated Friday by mistake for Thursday. R[eceived] by S. Peter's, Sunday morning, eleven o'clock, April 3, 1715.

[THE EARL OF OXFORD to his brother, EDWARD HARLEY.]

1715, April 3. Brampton Castle—I received yours this morning, and, though my health and other affairs require my stay in the

country, I am making all the haste I can towards you as the roads will permit me. I pray God give us a comfortable meeting.

The going away of Lord Bolingbroke is like his other practices. I thank God I was never in his secret, and for late years out of his way of converse, but only what was necessary.

——— to William Hayley, at Brampton Castle.

1715, June 11—On Thursday last, at the desire of the secret Committee, the Speaker of the House of Commons granted warrants for securing Mr. Thomas Ha[rle]y, Mr. Pr[io]r, Sir James Wishart, Mr. Hare, and Arthur Moore, in order to their being examined before them. As to the three last, I have not troubled myself to enquire about them, but for the two first they are at their own houses without any messenger with them, or any other manner of confinement than being there ready to attend the Committee when sent for. As this is a thing not publicly known in town, I tell it you for the sake of the first, that if you should happen to hear any confused, scurrilous story about it, you may say the truth, but if you hear nothing of it, be sure do not mention it first from me.

Yesternight the House of Commons came to a resolution that they would impeach Lord Oxford and Lord Bolingbroke of high treason and other high crimes and misdemeanours, and ordered the secret Committee to draw up articles against them, but they have not actually impeached them, nor is Lord Oxford ordered into custody, but it seems as if this vote was passed in order to fright him after Lord Bolingbroke, which it will not do. Those people that have heard the report read say there is nothing that can possibly come up to high treason, and some even of the secret Committee said so in the debate, and consequently that Lord Oxford can be in no danger. But others seem to be of another opinion, and believe that he only is to be made the sacrifice, and they are supported in that opinion by the House having adjourned the further consideration of the report till Friday next, without having impeached any other person. For my part I shall tell you nothing certain.

[Viscountess Dupplin to her aunt, Abigail Harley.]

1715, June 14. London—I don't doubt but you have been very uneasy ever since you heard what the House of Commons did on Friday. I am sorry you are at a distance, knowing your tender concern for your friends. What the event will be we know not. There has been nothing done since Friday, and I cannot learn when the articles will be brought into the House of Commons. I believe it is the first instance of a vote to impeach a man of high treason, and letting him have so much time before the charge is carried up to the House of Lords. People say it is that he may have time to run away, but knowing his innocence, he is resolved to stand it, and I trust the providence of God will protect him from the malice of his enemies. We know not yet what will be done further; it is a comfort that he is not guilty of any crime, and I hope his innocence will appear. I dined with him to day; he is very well, and very cheerful.

S[ARAH], COUNTESS OF OXFORD, to her sister [ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood?].

1715, June 19. Brampton Castle—I am to return my dear sister thanks for her very kind letter, and for her extraordinary kindness to me at such a time, when I am under the greatest trouble.

I received a letter from my dear Lord the last night, who was so ill that he sent for Dr. Mead.

The articles [of impeachment] are not yet brought in; I am told that my Lord doth not fear Coningsby nor pack of bloodhounds. I pray God deliver him out of their hands. I hear the Attorney-General is turned out of his place for declaring it was no treason what they had against my Lord.

Being resolved to set out for London on Tuesday next, I beg the favour of your horses to be at Brampton to-morrow.

JOHN ANSTIS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1715, June 20—At my return from the House I had the honour of your Lordship's commands, and in looking over some collections about officers of arms (who till the appointment of Ambassadors resident transacted most negotiations preparatory to peace), I find the enclosed instances of orders by the Privy Council, given to them in matters of great consequence. The entries of the payments to them being very short in the Pell Office (whence I took all the entries relating to such officers), they may be liable to some false glosses; but it will appear by sundry entries (whereof I have only inserted a few), that whenever the instructions came from the King or by his command, the same is entered with nicety enough, which will (in my poor opinion) sufficiently distinguish the authorities given by the Crown from those by the power of the Council only.

There are in Cleopatra, ff. 3, 4, and 5, in the Cotton Library, some minutes of the Privy Council of Hen. VI., which I intend to peruse to-morrow morning, and I acquainted Mr. Auditor Harley that my Lord Carnarvon had copies of the Council books of Edw. VI. at large, transcribed for the Lord Clarendon, which I would gladly see on this occasion, though I formerly read them over, but at that time took no references to matters of this nature. And if I may be admitted liberty by the Clerks of the Privy Council, I should gladly serve your Lordship in running them all over, too.

If the power the Crown certainly hath of making peace necessarily includes all proper steps and means for that purpose, it seems to my weak judgment absolutely requisite that persons may be verbally commissioned to accept proposals, since otherwise if an authority under the Great Seal be necessary, it must become public (that being a record all people may resort to) and how dangerous that must be by creating jealousies in alliances and at home, your Lordship can best judge.

I am certain there are some instances of matters passed under the Great Seal—*Ore tenus Regis.*

'Tis not improbable that an objection may be made against any instances during the minority of Hen. VI. that the Protector was one of the Council, and consequently had the power of peace and war.

I am confident that power was declared not to be in him by an Act of Parliament, and that it was then laid down no peace could be made during his minority.

Your Lordship will please to lay your commands on me without any reserve.

[Viscountess Dupplin to her aunt, Abigail Harley.]

1715, June 21. London—My dear father is better, was out yesterday, and to-day went to shew himself at the House of Lords. He now keeps regular hours of dining and going to bed, if he would continue that I hope it would be a great advantage to his health. The Commons have not yet brought in their articles against him, nor do we know when they will. To-day they went upon a further consideration of the report, and Mr. Secretary Stanhope moved to impeach the Duke of Ormond of high treason and high crimes and misdemeanours, upon which there was a great debate; how it has gone I know not, for the House was sitting at 9 o'clock, and I have seen nobody since. I will keep my letter open as long as I can, that I may send you word what they have done, if I can hear. It was not known to-night how it would go, for several Whigs were against impeaching the Duke, and their own lawyers were against it.

Sure there never was such wild doings. I pray God send us peace and quiet. I heartily pity you and the rest of our friends at a distance, but be assured I conceal nothing from you. I trust God will protect our dear friend, and that his innocence will appear; sure he is very happy that can be cheerful and easy amidst so much ill usage.

[Edward Harley, junior, to his aunt, Abigail Harley.]

1715, June 23. London—The reason of my not writing an answer to your last letter was because I was resolved to let you know what the House had done towards the impeachments, but they did not rise till it was too late to write.

They have impeached the Duke of Ormond of high treason, and Lord Strafford of high crimes and misdemeanours. There was nothing said of our dear friend. The great hangman, C[oningsb]y, abused the Duke to the highest degree, but no better can be expected from such a vile wretch. I have heard that when it comes before the Lords there will be other sort of doings, because it can be any other nobleman's case to-morrow.

Sir Joseph Jekyll told them yesterday in the House that though he had voted with them for many years, yet now their proceedings were so slightly founded, and straining the law, that he could not nor would not vote with them. People say that the most they can do with them is putting them in the Tower.

The enclosed *(missing)* is worth reading; you may guess the author of it. There is no inveterate malice nor party spleen in it, but all plain, downright matter of fact, and there is nothing sticks so deep in them as truth, because they are so unacquainted and averse to it. There is another a-coming out, (censuring?) the customs, which I will send.

Thomas Salt to his father, ——— Salt.

1715, July 12—I believe Mr. Sanbey acquainted my Lord by Saturday's post that the Earl of Oxford was ordered into custody of

the Black Rod, but I believe he had not time to tell my Lord that about twelve, which was just after I had sent a letter to you, he came from Westminster to his house in St. James's with a mob that cried out he was acquitted, Oxford, Ormond, &c. St. James's Coffee-house, Williams's, and all places thereabouts were then full, and 'tis impossible to express the consternation they were in, and continued so till past two, when Mr. Parsons, of the Green Cloth, meeting me, told me the good news, and Mr. Sanbey had the honour to carry it first to the Princess, who was as much surprised at the noise as we were. The Prince did not come home till near three o'clock. The Earl of Oxford has complained of a fit of the gravel, but was this day ordered to Westminster, where was a debate about his being sent to the Tower. Yeas, 80; noes, 55. He was after called to the bar, where he desired their Lordships would, on account of his indisposition, suffer him to continue two or three days at his own house, which the Lords have granted, to Saturday next. I am told that the Earl of A[nglese]y, in the debate this day, after recommending mercy, &c., should say to this effect that such cruel proceedings would shake the sceptre in the K[ing's] hand. The Earl of Southerland *(sic)* rose and said no man dared say that without that House nor none ought to say it within. The Duke of Roxburgh, Earl Cholmondeley, the Duke of Argyll spoke to it, and the Earl was obliged to explain himself that 'twas the riots, &c., that he meant might do it. Mr. Man tells me there are preparing five more articles against the Earl of Oxford, the matter was sent by Mr. Methuen from Spain. His friend says there is not a lawyer in England that will not say they are high treason.

——— to Abigail Harley at Eywood.

1715, July 16. London—About eight this evening my Lord went with the Black Rod to the Tower. When he set out there was a great mob about the door, and all along to the Tower, crying, "High Church and down with the Whigs," but no manner of disorder. My Lord was first brought to the Governor's house, and after near an hour's stay, he went to his lodgings at Mr. Tollets, attended by the officers, Lord Harley and Lord Dupplin, the Auditor, Dr. Mead and Pocklinton and all his servants, but none to remain but Mr. Morgan, my sister, a chambermaid and two footmen. They say he is to continue there till next Sessions of Parliament. I wish he would have made me one of his footmen, which would have been more satisfaction to me than being made a Commissioner of the office where I am a very inferior officer, but I thank God I am full of the most comfortable and reasonable hopes imaginable.

Dr. J[onathan] S[wift] to [the Earl of Oxford].

1715, July 19—It may look like an idle or officious thing in me to give your Lordship any interruption under your present circumstances, yet I could never forgive myself if, after having been treated for several years with the greatest kindness and distinction, by a person of your Lordship's virtue and wisdom, I should omit making you at this time the humblest offers of my poor service and attendance. It is the first time I ever solicited you in my own behalf, and, if I am refused, I think it will be the first request you ever refused me. I do not conceive myself obliged to regulate my opinions

by the proceedings of a House of Lords or Commons; and therefore, however they may acquit themselves in your Lordship's case, I shall take the liberty of thinking and calling you, the ablest and faithfullest minister, and truest lover of your country that this age hath produced. And I have already taken care that you shall be so represented to posterity, in spite of all the rage and malice of your enemies. And this I know will not be wholly indifferent to your Lordship, who, next to a good conscience, did always esteem reputation your best possession. Your heroic and Christian behaviour under this prosecution astonisheth everyone but me, who know you so well, and know how little it is in the power of human actions or events to discompose you. I have seen your Lordship labouring under greater difficulties and exposed to greater dangers, and overcoming both, by the providence of God, and your own wisdom and courage. Your life has been already attempted by private malice; as it is now by public resentment. Nothing else remained. You were destined to both trials, and the same power which delivered you out of the paws of the lion and the bear will, I trust, deliver you out of the hands of the uncircumcised.

I can write no more. You suffer for a good cause, for having preserved your country, and for having been the great instrument under God, of his present Majesty's peaceable accession to the throne. This I know, and this your enemies know; and this I will take care that all the world shall know, and future ages be convinced of.

God Almighty protect you, and continue to you that fortitude and magnanimity He hath endowed you with.

Farewell. J. S.

——————— to Mrs. Abigail Harley, at Eywood.

1715, July 19. London—I have been several times with my Lord to-day, he is now almost well; his friends increase by whole parishes. Last Sunday at Bow Church was sung a part of the ninety-fourth Psalm, beginning at the twentieth verse, which is worth your turning to. The same day I was at church in the morning at St. Katherine's, in the afternoon at Barking, both very near the Tower, at which places the Psalms were selected as above, and at Barking the sermon.

Yesterday Lord Foley made a great entertainment for the Duke and Duchess of Somerset. Lord and Lady Hertford, Lord Percy, Mr. Thynne, Lord Winchilsea, etc., attended.

On Saturday last I sent your Ladyship my Lord's print by Smith and a very good one of the late Duke of Leeds (which I met with in a broker's shop), with a drawing of glorious Lady Carmarthen; they will be brought from Ludlow to you. I sent them that way, having an opportunity of putting them in a box where there was nothing but clothes.

Here is news just come to town of one hundred men being killed somewhere in Staffordshire; one side, I cannot tell which, was headed by the High Sheriff.

The Harleian Library.

1715, July 27. Two papers of this date written and signed by Humfrey Wanley, as follow:—

1. The Harleian Library consists of books, &c., printed and written.

The printed part is numerous, and contains books, papers, prints excellent for their age, edition, use, richness, or rarity, so as in the whole to amount, at a reasonable price to £ *(blank)*.

The manuscript part (wherein I include the drawings and paintings, which alone are valued at £) consists of books, charters or deeds, and rolls (not to insist upon the fragments of parchment and paper, which my noble Lord of Oxford bought of me at £50) written in about twenty-six languages or dialects, and treating upon all sorts of learning and business.

The books are in number about three thousand, many of which, after great pains taken, have been secured at high prices, as ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty guineas a book; and many of them appear so rich and costly as not to have been made, or written and illuminated for hundreds of pounds each.

The charters or deeds are about thirteen thousand in number, and are of all ages up to 900 years. They are most authentic testimonies or evidence as to families and estates, and the very seals of exceeding use. Many of these will yield two, three, four, five guineas a piece or more. This is the largest collection that is known to be anywhere.

The rolls are in number about one thousand, and of the same use as books and charters are, although not so commonly seen. Their value is according to their age or subject. I sold one single roll to my noble Lord for thirty guineas, a high price indeed, and yet I refused an hundred pounds of another person for it, because I resolved it should come into this Library.

The collection of letters and papers of state, of princes, nobles, scholars, &c., which are not yet bound up into books, being added to those in this Library which are already bound, makes the Harleian collection of papers much the best and most valuable and numerous of any now in England, excepting only that of Sir Robert Cotton.

It may be noted that old manuscripts do not fall, but rise in their price, so much as to save the interest of the money laid out upon them. For, first, the trade of the bookwriters and illuminators is at an end, few copies of old books being transcribed, since printing is more cheap and more commonly used. Then fires, or other calamity of war, or robbery, still diminish the number of old books, even those which are secured in public libraries, and much more those which lie in private families; so that they still grow more and more scarce. Manuscripts also in tract of time grow yet more ancient. Thus we know of books which have been used by learned men one hundred or two hundred years ago, that have now gained so much additional age since their time, and are consequently so much more valuable than they were one or two hundred years since, especially considering how many ancient books have perished in the meantime. These considerations induce many of the nobility and gentry to secure old manuscripts at any rates when they appear, whose example being imitated by others of the commonalty, a greater demand is made for these things than can be supplied; so that old manuscripts are not only rendered very dear thereby, but are likely to be always dearer and dearer, as long as they can last.

	£
2. I have heard my noble Lord Oxford say that before he bought Sir Simonds D'Ewes's study, his books stood him in about	1000
Among these books many are manuscripts, besides the rolls and journals of Parliament.	
The said Sir Simonds D'Ewes's cost £500, besides incidental charges, amounting in all (as I guess) to about	550
Bishop's Stillingfleet's manuscripts cost, as I remember	175
The heraldical manuscripts of Spicer, Wilkie, &c., bought of Mr. Foresight, cost (if I remember rightly)	85
The heraldical manuscripts of Parker, bought of Shires, cost about	35
The heraldical manuscripts of Mundy, &c., bought of Mr. Comyns, the painter, cost	60
The parcel bought of Mr. Aymon will cost (when the rest is brought home) about	200
The letters and papers and books bought of Mr. Paul, Mrs. Shank, and Mr. Baker, cost (with carriage) about	102
The drawings and prints bought of Mr. Kemp, with other library service done by him, amounts to about	50
The books, charters, rolls, parchments, and papers, bought of me, Mr. Bayford, and all others, I reckon at	1000
39 presses for books, written and printed, at 3*l.* 10*s.* each, 136*l.* 10*s.*	246
15 presses with pigeon holes for charters at 6*l.* 10*s.* each, 97*l.* 10*s.*	
3 deeper presses for very large manuscripts at about 4*l.* each, 12*l.*	
Paid (as I may conjecture) to me for library service, and to the bookbinders, suppose	1000
The parcel bought of Mr. Le Neve, cost 30*l.*	70
The parcel bought of Mr. Strype cost 40*l.*	
	4573

Besides the great sum above-mentioned, which has been paid out of pocket, and the interest thereof, it may be remembered that this library has been enriched by divers benefactions, which could not have been purchased with money, or, at the best, without the further expense of great sums. The chief of these were brought in by Colonel Henry Worseley at two donations; by Dr. Hickes, Mr. Anstis, Dr. Stratford, my Lord Harley, Mr. George Holmes, Sir Gilbert Dolben, Mr. John Kemp, and myself, not to mention any of those who have given no more than a single book, excepting Sir Thomas Hobby. Nor that highly valuable parcel of books and papers used by the Commissioners of Public Accounts which, I suppose, cost nothing.

This computation made 27 July, 1715, by Humfrey Wanley.

News Letter.

1715, September 6. London—Our last letters from France are of the eleventh, which bring an account of the funeral procession of

the late king on the ninth. The corpse was carried from Versailles to St. Denis, where it is deposited among his ancestors. The particulars of the cavalcade or march are too long for our letter. It held from nine o'clock at night till eight next morning, and was attended by an infinite number of flambeaux, torches, and wax candles, so that the way was as light as if it had been day. The night also was very calm, and the moon shining part of the time. The whole show was an hour and a half passing one place. The whole Court attended, and all the great officers were in their coaches in the deepest mourning. The troops of the household preceded, and the regiment of horse guards and the King's own regiment of foot closed the march.

These letters give a particular account that on Monday, seventh September, their style, the young King set out from Versailles for the castle of Vincennes, where he is to reside for some months. He went close by the city of Paris, but did not go through it, for fear lest the throng and shouts of the people should discompose him, being so young. He was in the coach with the Regent, and sat in his governess's lap, the Duchess of Ventadour; he shewed himself well pleased, and not at all frighted or disordered. They add he is a very comely child, tall of his age, well shaped, and of a charming countenance and lively fine eye, his cheeks full but a little pale, and, as the people fancy, has much the air of his great grandfather, who made the same tour, and much about the same age, though it is supposed there were but few alive that would remember the other, which was near seventy-four years before.

They give long accounts from Court of the new measures of the Regent, particularly that he receives into favour those whom the last King had forbid the Court, releases the State prisoners, among whom, they say, twelve have been let out of the Bastille, some of whom have been confined above forty years, and that in such a manner that their friends believed all them to be dead long ago, and their own children did not know them. Orders are also sent to release the prisoners in the remotest places, where some persons of the first quality have been confined for several years. The Regent has won the hearts of the soldiery throughout the whole kingdom, by ordering all their arrears to be cleared off, and that all the troops shall be now clothed without deducting from their pay, all which amounts to thirteen millions of ready money, which, however, the Regent has found means to procure, and it is said he will likewise cause the marine affairs to be cleared, and the sea officers to be put upon a new foot.

They talk of great alterations which the Regent resolves to make in the great officers, by which he will lessen the expenses of the Government many millions, all which money the Regent resolves to apply to the paying the public debts and restoring the public credit; which, though it may be felt by those families who are particularly concerned, and may lose their places, yet it begins to give great life to the public affairs already, and to make trade flourish and money circulate.

The merchants of St. Malo and Rochelle, who are concerned in eleven ships just now arrived from the South Seas and Brazil, have offered the Regent five millions in silver and gold upon his personal engagement to repay the same, with interest, out of such funds as they have named, which it is said the Regent has accepted for his present occasions.

They likewise talk of new measures the Regent resolves to take as to foreign affairs, as well relating to other parts of the world as to Great Britain, and that he resolves to give his Britannic Majesty all the satisfaction that can be desired, as also all possible assurances of his living in perfect amity for the time to come.

There are no letters from the North since our last, saving that by way of France they write that they have had divers storms in the Baltic, which have done great damage to the fleets of every party, and have particularly stranded several of the Danish vessels of their flotillas, and have quite put off their intended attack of the Isle of Rugen, which they cannot now undertake without new preparations.

Yesterday eight several persons were brought up in custody of the gaol keepers of Essex in two coaches, and were committed to the Gatehouse.

Letters from Scotland continue to say that there really are some men gathered together in the braes, that is the hills, of Mar in the Highlands, but the most we can gather from it is that there being several Lords taken up there, as the Earl of Kinnoull, the Earl of Hume, the Lord Deskford and others, and put in the castle of Edinburgh. Some others who are apprehensive of the like are retired to such places where they think to prevent it, but whether this be true or not we hear that two regiments of dragoons are ordered from home to strengthen the troops who are arrived from Holland there, and that they will forthwith march to the northern parts to preserve the peace.

One Captain Silver, and two soldiers of the foot guards are committed to Newgate for high treason, and we hear that on Sunday morning last my Lord Powys was taken into custody of a messenger, but we do not hear what in particular is alleged against him.

NEWS LETTER.

1715, September 8. London—All the discourse at Paris is about the alterations the Regent is making at Court and in the Household, and his dismissing abundance of people from their posts, by which he will make many true mourners for the death of the late King. Likewise they talk of retrenching several millions in pensions, which will be the utter ruin of a multitude of families, for there was a very great number who, having obtained pensions from the late King, either for services done, or friends lost in the war, and on several such occasions, have no other dependence but on those pensions, and know not how to subsist if they are taken away. It is thought, therefore, that upon the representing these things to the Regent they will obtain, that half the sum be continued to them, and one half abated, which will yet be forty millions saved to the Government.

The reports that have been raised in England that the Regent had sent to the English Lords that are lately fled thither to withdraw or not to come to Court are not confirmed; on the other hand it is said they have retired at a country seat about a league from Paris, just as they did before.

Another post from France brings letters of the fourteenth with advice that the young King has made his public entry through the city of Paris to the Parliament on the twelfth instant. The cavalcade was very magnificent. The particulars are too long for our letter.

The Horse Guards and Grand Musketeers went before the coach, and the Gens d'Armes behind, and the French and Swiss Foot Guards lined the streets. The guns were fired at the Bastille, and the Provost of Paris presented the keys of the city, being preceded by the Duke de Tremes, Governor of the city. Being come to the Great Hall, the little King sat on a throne of justice raised under a canopy of state, and all the members being settled, his Majesty said, "I am come to give you assurance of my affection to my Parliament and the Chancellor shall speak to you of what remains."

Thereon the Chancellor made a speech, after which he read the decree of the Regency, the King present, so that the Duke of Orleans was again pronounced Regent, in the Parliament and in the presence of the King.

By letters just arrived from Lisbon we have an account that an advice boat is come in from Brazil that the fleet there would be ready to sail in about thirty days, very richly laden, and that the reports which were raised of the Brazils being supplied with European goods by French ships so as to glut the market, and to take up all the ready money, etc., are all groundless; that on the contrary the goods sent in the last ships from Portugal have found a very good market, and the quantity of gold in this fleet, which is expected, will be as great as ever. These letters add that the King continues in an ill state of health, and it is feared will not be an old man, but that he is not thought to be in immediate danger. Two Portuguese ships of war have taken three rovers, one of Algiers, and two of Sally, whereof the former carries thirty-two guns.

Letters from Venice confirm the taking of Napoli di Romania, which has put the Senate and people of Venice into a great consternation. They add that on the pressing occasion of the State, they have made a decree that all those who are willing to advance one hundred thousand ducats to the State, shall be admitted into the number of the nobility.

Pray note that all our printed papers pretend to write this piece of news as from Paris, and to tell us that the French are to admit all into the number of their nobility who are worth one hundred thousand crowns, which is not for want of ignorance.

The last post brings us nothing from the North but a further account of their delays in the promised attack of Rugen, which, it seems, they want more help to undertake, and therefore wait now for the Czar of Moscovy to assist them.

Yesterday two Jews bought a rough diamond for one shilling of a boy in the street, who said he found it, and shewed it to them to ask what it was; but boasting to one another of its value, and being overheard by one who understood Portuguese, the man fetched a constable, who carried them before a justice of the peace, who took the diamond from them; and it seems it is put into the hands of the Sheriff, and notice given that if any body has lost it, they may claim it. It is said the diamond is worth near three hundred pounds.

Our Whigs will have it, right or wrong, that there are a great number of men up in arms in the Highlands of Scotland against the Government, and that they have declared for the Pretender, and more especially this news is put forward among the stock jobbers, because they make their market as well as they could wish by the poor frighted Whigs, but we can not learn there is any truth in it. They add that the answers of the Earl of Oxford to the articles of impeachment

are so long that they contain thirty-six sheets of paper. There are several who pretend to have seen copies or to have heard them read, but the accounts they give of them are so uncertain and so contradicting one another that nothing can be gathered from them that may be depended upon. We hear nothing yet of any time being set for his trial.

They still continue to say that the Parliament will adjourn for some time soon after the bill for the supporting the Princess of Wales, etc., is passed the House of Lords.

H[UMFREY] WANLEY to [LORD HARLEY].

1715, October 12—Your noble and candid acceptance of my poor service in retrieving the second volume of catalogue is a great encouragement for me to proceed in fulfilling your pleasure on all other occasions.

I am sorry that the Greek Psalter proveth so recent in your Lordship's opinion and that the Alcoran proveth to be but on paper, when it was warranted to be written upon parchment. Arabic books upon parchment are most exceedingly rare; for which reason I wondered that my noble Lord, your father, should reject that which I offered unto him at a price beneath its value. However, when I see these books, I shall be able to say more. My first book of Cæsar's Commentaries, translated by the late French king, was bound in vellum, with his arms and orders stamped on both sides the covers. Mr. Howel has not been with me this week, being busied with design to get into the Charterhouse. In truth the poor man hath formerly been industrious, but is now superannuated.

The catalogue above comes from the booksellers at Beaufort Buildings. They have more, which (with these) came from the late auction in Holland. I offered my assistance in cataloguing the smaller books for you, because I found them most curious, but they declined the same. This they have done but in their own way.

JOHN DRUMMOND to [LORD HARLEY].

1715, December 7. London—My brother tells me that there is a lawyer dead at Edinburgh who had a pretty good collection of coins, especially of what relates to Scotland. He is going next Monday to that country, and promises to send up a catalogue of them and the prices.

Lord Mar sent proposals of submission by one Colonel Lawrence, whom he made a prisoner at the battle of Dumblane, to the Duke of Argyll, and this night I am told that Col. Lawrence is arrived here with the proposals, to lay them before the King; but I don't hear that the rebels have any other terms to expect than to submit to the King's mercy at discretion. The French letters give an account of the Pretender's return to Lorraine, so that I hope our northern rebellion is at an end, by which my poor country has suffered much, and many of the best families are ruined.

JOHN DRUMMOND to [LORD HARLEY].

1715, December 10. London—Yesterday the prisoners from Preston were brought to their several confinements about three in the after-

noon, all on horseback, and their arms tied with ropes, their horses led by soldiers. Nine or ten Lords who were sent to the Tower were conducted in the same manner as the Commons. So great a concourse of people and number of coaches as went to see them come in, has not been seen since the King's entry, the mob missed their General Foster. The scaffolding in Westminster Hall is ordered to be set up, but who is to be tried first I have not heard any certainty about. Lord Mar's proposals to capitulate are rejected. The Court thinks he has done his worst, and deserves no terms. The Duke of Roxburgh is expected this night, and it is said that the Duke of Argyll and the other Scots' nobility will be here next week. Lord Jersey is set at liberty. I hope Lord Dupplin may soon receive the same pleasure.

THE EARL OF OXFORD to his brother, NATHANIEL HARLEY, at Aleppo.

1716, April 13. The Tower—I begin a letter to my dearest brother, though I do not know that my weak hand will obey my heart enough to write more than a very few lines. You may be sure I have received the frequent intelligence of your coming home with that joy that can only be conceived by those who love each other so entirely, that I know you will not be displeased to receive a few lines from me, even out of this place. I have been here since July 16, 1715, and desire only to come out with the same honour, the same innocency as I came in. I know I have served my country successfully and usefully, my Queen faithfully and observed the laws religiously and strictly, to which I have not only the testimony of my own conscience, but the applause of nine parts in ten of the nation, so that I will not exchange my integrity and a prison for the mind and the power of some others. I gave you notice many years since how your letters were opened, and after that an effectual way was taken, for they would never let them be received by me; I wrote you an historical account of all that happened to our family since your and my parting at Orleton, 1686. I find a duplicate of these collected into one letter which never came to you. I was so far persuaded of those villanous practices, that I offered three or four years since to have sent a messenger on purpose to you, but our good and dear brother Edward was so fully persuaded of your then being on your return, that he hindered my sending, which we have both regretted since, besides the hopes and pleasures of seeing you have been prevented. I have too much reason to tell you that you have been a great sufferer in your affairs mercantile by your absence, it is the interest of too many here not to have you return, and I know something of the spirit of those who correspond with one at Aleppo (where I hope this will not find you), that I will not explain myself more on this subject until God show us the mercy that we may embrace each other, which that it may be speedily is the earnest prayer of your most tenderly affectionate brother.

Postscript.—My wife presents you her most affectionate humble service. That you may know how many you will have to bid you welcome to England, I will name. 1. Two brothers and two sisters. 2. Sister Popham's four children and our nephew Popham of Littlecote by niece Anne, whom you knew, and nephew Ned Popham's child, only son to our sister. 3. Brother Edward's two sons and one daughter, most fine children. 4. My children and grandchildren, viz.,

dear Betty (Lady Carmarthen) whom you just saw, and God was pleased to take away, leaving a sweet child, Lord Danby. Daughter Dupplin and her husband, Lord Hay of Pedwardine and their two sons and three daughters. Your nephew Lord Harley and Lady Henrietta and their pretty daughter Margaret Cavendish; and may our good and gracious God vouchsafe a comfortable, speedy meeting.

You see how my affection warms my hand to be obedient to write so much. Cousin Thomas Harley is also well.

Copy.

[Edward Harley to his nephew, Lord Harley.]

1716, April 25.—I came late last night from the funeral of the Triennial Act, which I wish may not prove the interment of the liberties of England, for what may not be expected from a standing Army and Parliament? It was debated very well. The Noes 153, among them were Mr. Bromley and Shepherd of Cambridgeshire. The King, it is said, is determined to go to Hanover, and the Parliament will quickly be up.

There is no intention to try Lord O[xford], but I doubt they will keep him there as long as they can. Mr. Vane seems now to be more disposed than formerly to come to an agreement. I heartily wish an end could be made with him, considering the situation of public affairs, and how fast the Duke is galloping out of his estate. Mr. Vane has instructed Mr. Ward, the lawyer, to talk with me, if there be any prospects of bringing this matter to an end, I will wait upon you at Wimpole to take my lady's instructions.

John Drummond to Lord Harley, at Wimpole.

1716, April 28. London—It is reported that Lords Dupplin, Scarsdale, and Powis will be very soon set at liberty, and that the Parliament will rise about the 10th of next month. The Tories thought fit to give themselves and the Court some trouble in debating the Triennial Act on Tuesday last, when it was committed; but about eleven at night the Court carried the question by one hundred and twenty-two votes, and yesterday it passed by a greater majority. The principal speeches on the Tory side were made by Sir T. Hanmer and Mr. Shippen, Mr. Bromley and Mr. Snell, the latter made a national reflection on my countrymen, and was reprimanded for it. Lord Somers died yesterday morning, and Mr. Walpole recovers but slowly, which is really a great hindrance to all Treasury business.

Books borrowed by Dr. Richard Bentley.

1716, August 6—Paper in Dr. Bentley's handwriting as follows:—"August the 6th, 1715 (*sic*, see below), borrowed out of the Earl of Oxford's Library the books in manuscript following—93, c. 2; 93, b. 16; 93, c. 29; 93, b. 17; 63, c. 24 (i.e. 63 d. 24, *note by Humfrey Wanley*) being parts of the New Testament, Latin and one Græc.-Latin, all to be restored upon demand, by me, Ri. Bentley."

At foot in Wanley's handwriting, is added:—

"Memorandum, that Dr. Bentley borrowed the Books above-mentioned, the sixth day of August, 1716, and not 1715.

That when he put down 63, c. 24, he had the book 63, d. 24 in his hand, and meant that book.

That whereas he chargeth himself as having borrowed five *(sic)* books in Latin, and one Graeco-Latin, he received but five books in all, which he honestly restored.

THO[MAS] HEARNE to LORD HARLEY.

1716, December 23. Edmund Hall, Oxford—Yesterday, Mr. William Thomas delivered to me your letter of the 19th, with a generous present of five guineas, for both which I most heartily thank your Lordship.

You guess rightly that Camden's "Elizabeth," with his own improvements (that I have under his own hand), will be a very valuable book. The author himself desired that the whole work might be published with those improvements, but it was never yet done; and I am glad that I have undertaken to do that justice to him.

I am heartily glad that your Lordship hath purchased honest John Bagford's papers, with his picture. I had before heard of it. I hope at some time or other an account of printing, in a small volume, may be extracted from them. He showed me several of them and, as I remember, I found many good notes in them.

HUMFREY WANLEY to LORD HARLEY, at Bath Court, in St. James's Palace.

1716, December 30. Wimpole—On the progress made by him in arranging and cataloguing his Lordship's library, and certain promised gifts thereto by Mr. [Thomas] Baker, "who as well as Mr. Billers, and some others of less note, must quit his fellowship [of St. John's, Cambridge], about the 22nd prox."

HUMFREY WANLEY to LORD HARLEY, at Bath Court, St. James's Palace.

1716-17, January 3. Cambridge.—My coming hither was to kill two birds with one stone; to see my poor spouse, and to buy the mourning you was pleased to give me. I began the last first, by fixing upon a cloth at my honest friend Mr. Mortlock's before I saw her; although I did afterwards consult her touching the trimming. The tailor had the cloth that same hour, and all things got ready as soon as might be; and still I am here. The boy brought Scrub this morning as I bade him, but I could not go, the tailor having disappointed me, and broken his promise. The waistcoat, indeed was ready for me, but I looked I know not how in it; it is very short (although he hath had cloth sufficient), and the ends of the sleeves hold not out to their proper place by three inches at least. I could not but look on myself as a sort of Punchinello, or an overgrown boy in it. The tailor is as vain and proud and conceited as the most fantastical man of the business; he has, however promised to alter, but I perceive is very angry. This ridiculous man's caprice keeps me here till Saturday, although I have done my business.

On Tuesday I attended at Pembroke Hall after many invitations, the last being made in form, by the Master and Society. There, among others, I met Sir Clement Cotterel, Mr. Slater and Mr. Paske. Your Lordship's health was drunk very affectionately; and afterwards, in the common room, repeated with the noble additions of my Lady, &c.

Yesterday, I went to Mr. Baker, who is most wonderfully pleased with your present, which I found standing on his cabinet. I believe he designs an inscription, and to leave it to his family, as a perpetual monument of your noble friendship for him. I paid him the twenty guineas, and took his receipt for the same; and I have gotten another small parcel of him, consisting of five folios, thirteen quartos, and fifty-five lesser books. They came to me late this day, so that time will serve for my taking a list of them now, by this post; because most of them consist of divers tracts bound up together. They are curious and valuable. I have promised that your Lordship shall return him the same number of other books (among your duplicates) of the same sizes; to his contentation and satisfaction. We are agreed, and by degrees I will hope to get you every valuable book he has, that you want, or like.

JOHN WALTER to [HUMFREY] WANLEY, at Lord Harley's, Wimpole.

1716-17, January 26. C[orpus] C[hristi] C[ollege], Cambridge—Our University has lately given a convenient building for a public laboratory for chemistry and an anatomy school. The former of these I am concerned in. The expense will be between 200*l.* and 300*l.*, and it must be raised by contributions amongst friends to public designs. If you think proper to ask my Lord Harley's charity in the case, the University and myself in particular would be obliged to you. I have not the honour to be known to his Lordship, but I should be proud to wait on him on that or any other occasion.

HUMFREY WANLEY to LORD HARLEY, at Bath Court, St. James's.

1716-17, February 10. Wimpole—Your Lordship's kind letter came to me safe this afternoon, and to-morrow I will let Mr. Baker know, that my lady cannot spare the ass for Dr. Ferrari, as desired, because she shall have occasion to use it herself. I will do it as handsomely as I can; because I fear that Mr. Baker (notwithstanding what he hath written) will think that the ass might have been lent, until her noble ladyship's return.

The last time I went to Cambridge, upon second thoughts, I took with me the greatest part of the catalogue I have now made, and showed it to Mr. Baker, with desire that he would help me with his notes, where I have been at a loss, but to let me have the same back again with me, without suffering any person to see those papers. I had his promise, and before I returned hither, did receive the said papers from him. His judgment on them is, that it is a good catalogue; that although it be the first draught, it is fit to serve instead of one fairly written. He hath given me (according to my earnest desire) a paper wherein I find the authors of some anonymous tracts; and saith, that he hath found help equivalent from what I have specified in the same catalogue of which he was not before apprised. He asked also, to borrow of your Lordship, for some short time *Peter Wentworth's book*, *I.L.* 27. *Gabr. Harvey, Smithus, &c.*, *N. H.* 19. *Histoire de l'Imprimerie & de la Librairie, &c.*, *X. D.* 2. I should have mentioned these in my last, but though they were in my head when I began to write, I forgot the article before I had done; for which I beg his and your noble Lordship's pardon. But I desire your leave to send them unto him, as soon as may be.

When I saw him last, I had a desire to look upon the MSS. in that College library; I saw some of them, and among others, took notice of a Deed, which being given to Mr. Baker by his bookseller, he gave to the place. It is an original, dated A.D. 1075, containing the Acts of the Council, holden at London in that year, and signed by those who were assessors therein. It is printed in the second vol. of Sir Henry Spelman's Councils, but not correctly, nor from any original. To your Lordship it is very valuable, as giving you the acts of a great Synod, authentically; a date of a hand of that antiquity; and the hands or signs of our most eminent Churchmen of that time. I desire to know your Lordship's noble pleasure; whether I may not write to Dr. Jenkin the Master, to procure an exchange between you and the college for this old Parchment, for some duplicate book, or a small matter (suppose a guinea) in money. In order to this, I have already Mr. Baker's consent; who will declare himself willing that your Lordship should have it.

In your catalogue, I am gotten into page 161, and have dispatched the shelf XV.c., whose last running number is 4,452. When this class shall be finished, I must begin the next, where your collection of English bibles will be the first books that occur. I have already altered the course of your books almost all along. I hope for the better; they having not been put up (as they say) for good and all. On that, I thought I had no need of fresh directions, because I made the same number of books serve for the same shelf, unless the shelf was overcrammed, or not full. But here the matter is otherwise; your collection of English bibles is dispersed about two classes; and perhaps in other rooms of the house; and it may be some may lie in cases, either yet unopened or unobserved by me. My mind is not to give myself unnecessary trouble in this particular; and yet I would willingly that your bibles should stand with as much regularity (both as to date and size) as they will well admit of. In order to this, I desire your Lordship to apprise me of your pleasure as soon as may be, that being my rule.

I have a great mind that you should have the fine Bible you saw at St. John's College, among their MSS., and have spoken to Mr. B. about it, who will willingly serve you therein. It is by much the finest book of the English nation of its kind; and but one more that dare in the least to enter into competition with it, and that, not to be had for any money whatever. The College know not when, nor of whom, nor how, they came by it; which will make for you. Your Lordship heard that they have been bidden a good sum for it, but refused the same. I would willingly have this in your collection (now while I have friends there), and am of opinion with Mr. B. that for a duplicate of the same impression, your Lordship making up an equivalent to them in money, for their Library, you may compass it, if you lay hold on the present opportunity.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to his aunt, ABIGAIL HARLEY.

1716-17, March 20, Christ Church, Oxford—The soldiers are returned hither; they committed a riot while they were at Witney, and the persons that were coming to be evidence against them at the Assizes were seized and carried to London by a special warrant from the Secretary of State.

Lord Feilding, a nobleman of our house, received the news late last night of his father being seized with an apoplexy, of which he died in

about an hour. My Lord is this morning gone to his seat where his father died.

THE REV. SIMON OCKLEY to [LORD HARLEY].

1717, May 14. Cambridge Castle—The hurry which I was in when I wrote to my Lord Oxford upon my first coming hither being a little worn off; and I having taken time to look over my troubled circumstances am better able to give your Lordship an exact account of them than I could then.

I sent his Lordship word that I believed my debts were about 200*l.* but upon inquiry they amount to 340*l.*

My friends here in the University are very ready to assist me; and I have this satisfaction in the midst of my misfortunes that the more any person is acquainted with my life and circumstances, the better convinced he is how little it was in my power to prevent them. So that I do not question but I shall meet with such a comfortable contribution here, as may (though not sufficient of itself), with some assistance from my friends abroad, put me in a way of prosecuting my studies with much greater ease than for these many years last past.

I have reason to presume from former favours that your Lordship will not refuse your assistance in this extremity.

THE DUKE OF SHREWSBURY to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1717, May 16—Having agreed to discourse with Lord Dupplin and Lord Trevor this morning about your Petition, after that conference is over Lord Dupplin will acquaint your Lordship with our opinions; I give you this trouble in answer only to the last paragraph of your letter. I hope you do not doubt but my respect and kindness for you is so sincere that I would decline nothing that might be of real service to you, but I truly think my delivering your Petition would not be so, and am of opinion such an application would come with more strength and better grace from some Lord unconcerned in the administration in the last years of the Queen, and if a Peer could be found (and I am confident there are such) who had voted for committing you to the Tower, and were now willing to offer your Petition, I should think such a Lord more proper that any friend or relation because it would appear he did it to vindicate the privilege of Peerage, as well as in justice to you. I tell your Lordship sincerely my thoughts and joining my hearty wishes for your good success, am, &c.

LORD CARLETON to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1717, May 25—Before I received your letter I was informed by Lord Dupplin of the time when your petition would be presented, and as I gave my attendance that day so I will not fail to be in the House as often as anything relating to that matter, which so nearly concerns you, comes before the Lords, and I hope I shall soon be able to congratulate you upon your being restored to liberty.

W. BROMLEY to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1717, May 29—I beg to know your commands if you have any for me to-morrow; I cannot certainly learn what will then be offered. The

Court and some of the Secret Committee, I believe, design to charge Walpole with undertaking what he cannot perform; he is aware of it, and to ward off that blow, he will probably be as bold an asserter as ever, and appear forward to go on with the trial, for he has said to me "If I bluster you must take no notice of it, for I shall mean nothing." If he behaves in this manner, I conclude managers will be appointed, who some days hence will acquaint the House that they cannot be ready to go to trial the 13th, and desire a longer day. This is only my conjecture, because it seems the most decent way to get quit of this malicious and groundless impeachment. Your Lordship can best judge whether naming so long a day was friendly, and for your service, but I hope the Lords will not give another. Lord Nottingham says some of the Whigs and Court wish they had voted with him upon the first question. Looking into precedents, I cannot but observe the Lords have now appointed the same day for your Lordship's trial as they did for Lord Somers, to see it end as that did will be the greatest satisfaction to me.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to his aunt, ABIGAIL HARLEY.

1717, May 30. Christ Church, Oxford—I am very glad the Lords have appointed a day for trial, though I should have been more pleased had it been sooner than the 18th, lest there should be a prorogation or some trick or other that may keep him in all the summer. I commend C[oningsby]'s affection and zeal for bills of attainder, though whenever his turn comes I do not question but a bill of indictment, and a jury of his own countrymen and neighbours, nay his own tenants, would do his business as effectually as he did Gaffney's (I am sure more legally).

There was no manner of disturbance here on the 28th and 29th, but a great deal of loyalty shown, though the constitutioners had intended to make one, that their dearly beloved soldiers and only protectors might once more make us a visit, had not the proctors disappointed their designs by sending them all to their colleges by half an hour after eight.

—— to [the EARL OF OXFORD?].

1717, June 6, Thursday—Lord Ilay came to me in the House, and told me that Mr. Stanhope in the Secret Committee made a speech to this effect, that he perceived many difficulties would arise in the prosecution of the impeachment, and that now the year was far advanced, he thought the best way to get rid of it was to apply to the King to desire him to insert a clause in the Act of Grace that might determine it, and so all prosecution cease upon it.

He said it was only opposed by three or four, but in the conclusion they resolved to do as Mr. Stanhope proposed. Lord Ilay desired you might have as early notice of it as possible; he heard the Act would come in Saturday next.

HUMFREY WANLEY to LORD HARLEY, at Bath Court, St. James's.

1717, June 16. Wimpole—On Friday afternoon last I concluded, and shut up the first volume of your shorter catalogue; and yesterday I sent the whole to Mr. Baker; that I may have his help against the anonymous or pseudonymous authors, especially those of Cambridge.

I could have wished that you had followed my advice with relation to Bishop Barlow's books in the Bodleian and Queen's College Libraries at Oxford. I attribute the no regard had unto it, to be the natural consequence of my obscurity in writing; for I believe you apprehended my request was, to send your whole catalogue to Oxford, when finished, and at the same time, my mind was only to give the titles of their anonymous and pseudonymous books without letting them see a line of the same. Mr. Baker has received it, and sent me the enclosed. He does not know that I know Mr. Dean Kennet, who has been my acquaintance above these twenty years. I shall finish the alphabet to your catalogue as soon as I can; and soon after I will enter upon an index to the same; which I promise you beforehand, shall be a good one; and this I say, as having little assistance from either University, but standing upon my own bottom.

As to Mr. Baker, I think soon to send him a letter, and one of your duplicate Bibles of A.D. 1537, not by way of gift, in your name; but by way of loan and friendship, and then I will answer the enclosed, and desire him to save himself trouble. In the meantime, I again offer to your Lordship's consideration your business with Mr. Antis, Mr. Mickleton, and Mr. Warburton of Hexham, or else your affairs will fall to the ground. I know you are busy now, but if you invite Mr. Mickleton to dine with you some day, it will quit cost. He lodges at his chambers in Coney Court, in Gray's Inn, No 14. Why may not you make this man your friend, and take his things? He loves you and your family, and at this present time has a great cargo by him. I forbear the detail of his things at this time; because I would have him surprise you (as I was surprised this day was a seven-night) with a free offering. It grows late; all the servants are gone abroad to take the air, except one whom I have retained at 1*s.* price to carry this to the Tiger immediately, so that I have no more time.

Thomas Hearne to Lord Harley.

1717, July 12. Edmund Hall, Oxford—I return your Lordship most hearty thanks for your generous present of five guineas, that was put into my hands yesterday by Mr. Harley, a very ingenious, modest young gentleman of Christ Church.

I have lately seen two copies of Hollingshed's Chronicle, in both of which I met with the castrated sheets, which I had been looking after several years, but in vain, they being wanting in all our Oxford copies that I have seen. I had the use of both the said copies by the favour of two worthy friends, and I fully satisfied myself in what I was in quest after. I am sorry to hear that your Lordship hath not yet got a complete copy of this Chronicle. I hear of one that is complete in the Clarendon library at Cornbury, but I have not yet had a sight of that library.

[Dr. Jonathan Swift] to the Earl of Oxford, St. James's.

1717, July 16. Dublin—I wrote to you some days ago, and enclosed the letter in a cover directed to your brother in Lincolns Inn Fields; I need not repeat what I there said, but beg your Lordship will answer my letter as soon as you have an hour of leisure, and do not let civility force you to say anything against your mind, for if it doth not consist with your conveniency, the matter is at an end. But I imagine, if

you have any thoughts of retiring for some time to Herefordshire, I ought to see you and ask you some questions, and receive your instructions, concerning some things I have often spoke to you about, that might employ my leisure in the present situation of affairs, which we then easily foresaw, &c.

I will now give you no further trouble but remain, &c.

Mrs. L. M. Cressett to [the Earl of Oxford].

1717, August 20. London—Nothing except my melancholy situation could induce me to trouble you after all that has happened. I am sure that you are not aware how much I have felt it, but being more pressed than I can tell you, by a person to whom I owe money, I am compelled to ask you with all possible insistance that if you could pay me the four hundred pieces which you know about, I should look upon it as the greatest possible favour, being greatly pressed by persons from whom I have been obliged to borrow at a high rate, because I could never get payment of what was due to me, nor obtain pension. I trust God will take care of me and mine. *French.*

The Same to [the Same].

1717, August 21. London—My son, having told me that he had had the honour of speaking to you on the subject about which I wrote to you, surprised me by saying that you thought it was concerning the coaches. I should be very sorry if you thought so badly of me as to believe that I should ask you a thing for which I had been already paid long ago. I hope you have not forgotten the four hundred pieces which I spent in your service, and which you promised, both to poor Dr. Hoton and myself, that you would be so generous as to repay. If I had not spent them, and if my circumstances were not in such bad condition, I should have waited before asking you this favour. *French.*

Lord Oxford in the Tower.

1715, October to 1717, August—A series of about thirty letters written by the Earl of Oxford to various members of his family during his imprisonment, filled chiefly with expressions of pious resignation to his state, and of strong affection towards his children. The first one, dated October 3, begins:—"This day is the first essay I have made after twelve weeks' confinement to write, and, as affection and gratitude lead me, it is to my daughter; but I doubt she will scarce be able to read it, therefore tell her it was wrote by my heart and not by my hand. I do continually bless God for his goodness to you both, and to me in you both. The greatest thing that hath been able to touch my mind in my confinement is, lest it should affect dear Lady Henrietta's tender spirit; for as to all the rest my enemies can do to me, my integrity and my mind put me above them." Lady Oxford seems to have been with him in the Tower, for towards the close of this letter he sends a message from her, and in the succeeding letter, written on October 23, he refers to a fever from which he is but just recovering, which has reduced him to much weakness, and adds—"Your mother by her kindness in sitting up and watching with me was very ill, but is now much

better." Under date of November 16, we read:—"This is the first day I have been able to put on my coat since Tuesday, July 26, but I have not yet gone out of this room, and continue very weak in my limbs and especially in my arms. I am fallen away to a 'sceleton' in my body, but keep well in my face, which will be the last thing will fall away. This I owe immediately to our barbarous gaoler, who would not let me stay until next day, but forced me to move from Tollet's in the night." On December 15, after giving some advice about the cutting of his granddaughter's, "our dear Peggy's" teeth, he thus refers to the 1715 rebellion—"Our great men have yesterday put off the Parliament for twenty-six days, to Monday, January 9. I suppose the scaffolds will begin building either this day or to-morrow. Several of the prisoners come up from Preston have been examined; whether they can tell or will tell anything of any body but their own associates I do not know. But a set of people who are never silent when they have a view of blood and from whom few such few things can be concealed *(sic)* they do not seem to have the evidence they expected or hoped for, but zeal and true love to make the most of their country, can supply the defects of judge, jury, law and evidence. . . . . Your venison was incomparable good, and your beer, after stirring, begins to come to itself."

On February 2, 1715-16, Lord Oxford writes to Lord Harley about the illness of Lady Henrietta, his daughter-in-law:—I know you need not be told how much you ought to love and value her. It is a great pleasure of my life to see you so mutually happy in each other; but when I love you both so tenderly, you are to expect it should break out in continually thinking of you, often talking of you both, and frequent writing to you. The latter, my weak hand disables me from, and as I can scarce write (you see) to be read, so it is with difficulty, and not without pain . . . . . I heartily thank you for your books, especially Dion; they shall be carefully returned. Xylander's translation of him is sad Clavius mends homilies (?) little by his notes, and the gentleman with his black lead, as far as I yet have looked, mends in the wrong place, and did not understand the sense of the author. The Greek is most wretchedly printed. I wanted him for a discourse between Augustus and Livia about the best way to confirm his new government; it is an excellent piece. I have tired my hand, therefore can add no more, but pray for the best blessings for you. Pray kiss pretty Mrs. Peggy Cavendish. Your mother sends her best service.

On 23 March, 1715-16, Lord Oxford writes to his brother Edward:—"Having got a few hours' relief of the pains in my arms by its falling into my legs, I take this interval to write to my dear brother what is not fit for another hand. My mind is so full of Lord Carnarvon's* repeated expressions of kindness to me, that I cannot longer delay, in this solemner way than speaking, by writing to make his Lordship my utmost acknowledgments. Under the burdens of pain, diseases, and imprisonment, it is no small comfort to have the support of so honourable and steady a friend, and I should be ashamed to ask his Lordship's countenance, if I had offended any law of the land, or prejudiced my country. That I happen to be made the first instance of such treatment under this reign, I find occasions many people to make severe remarks, for nothing is more notoriously known than my uniform conduct with-

* James Bridges, afterwards better known as the Duke of Chandos, which title he obtained in 1719.

out trepidation in the two preceding reigns for the service of the present Royal Family; and the success has satisfied all that I foretold them and their ministers. I have avoided enlarging on this in my answer having only touched it by way of claim in case anything should in the proceedings be objected upon that head. . . . . I never had the least view in anything I did for the promoting the Protestant succession for my own private advantage; my only motive was that I thought it was for the good of my country. So I took the greatest care I could by letters and discourses to show that I was determined to enjoy myself in a quiet retirement, and you know I had prepared everything for it, if I might have been suffered to enjoy that repose I ought."

On May 5, to Lady Harley:—"I have fully disposed my mind to be easy under any confinement, and as I look for no favour, so I shall do nothing towards my freedom, that may not become the character of an English gentleman, and I will go out of this place with the same honour and innocence as I came into it." After some remarks on the management of the Brampton estate, he goes on:—"I learnt one rule from your grandfather, never to let any one know the value of his estate, but to let it be thought less than it is; in which there is great advantage, for it still keeps a reserve for any accident in a family, as well as it is a handle to keep neighbours, relations, agents, and servants from forcing one into expenses to the utmost of one's income, for this is most certain, every one about one will endeavour to proportion their master's expense to what they suppose his income to be. If I do not misremember, both the Earl of Clare and the last Duke of Newcastle gave me this maxim. I am sure my father Foley suffered sufficiently by 'tenterhooking' his rent roll, and stretching it to thirteen thousand pounds a year on paper, when it never answered nine; all his parsimony and swaggering could not hinder them from imposing upon him so that they made it a common saying—'God has made him able, and we will make him willing' . . . . . God have you, my dearest daughter, and our sweet Peggy in his keeping. Give Peggy a kiss."

A paper in Lord Oxford's handwriting, endorsed by him "Brief state of E. Oxford's case, June 29, 1716" runs thus:—

"The Earl of Oxford was committed in July, 1715, upon an impeachment brought up by the House of Commons, in which two articles are called (at that time) treason. Additional articles were after brought up. To all which the said Earl made a distinct answer, and the Commons joined issue by a replication. That meeting of the Parliament ended without any other proceedings.

"Another meeting began January 9, 1715-16, and continued to June 26, 1716; and no further proceedings with respect to that impeachment.

"Lord Oxford avoided urging anything or making application, for fear of interfering with the case of others who were labouring to obtain relief. In case of the impeached Lords, Earl of Powis, &c., the Lords declared the continuance of impeachments upon prorogations and dissolution. This was founded upon precedents reported by Lord Widdrington, from the Committee of Privileges, March 29, 1673.

"*Note.*—This report was to another purpose.

"Precedents also drawn up by Mr. Petyt. *Note.* Not one of those precedents he quotes was in an impeachment.

"This rule or order was after reversed, and so stands in the Lords' Journal.

"The Earl of Oxford would be glad to have his friends' opinion, how far in prudence he should move the judges for to be bailed.

"The law is for it, but if inclination and power do not concur it will be fruitless.

"Though the new rule of slipping (?) time for moving might be a good excuse for trying the motion."

In August, 1716, Lady Harley had a very severe illness, and there are many most affectionate letters from Lord Oxford to his son on that subject.

Hardly any letters are preserved written during the last six months of his imprisonment; but there are a few in the collection dated in August, addressed to his son, filled with expressions of gratitude towards him and Lady Henrietta for their kindness to him during his long confinement.

DR. RICHARD BENTLEY to ——— MORLEY.

1717, September 3. Trinity College—I hope this will find the right honourable family and yourself in good health. Upon your engagement I have ventured to send our College groom for a buck with a fee in his pocket for the keeper. You know, a community is like the judges in their circuit; what is done at first as a civility, grows by use into a sort of due. The tenants to those two estates of Hitchin and Arrington, have given time out of mind annually, the Dukes of Bedford two bucks and Newcastle one buck, and on the renewals of their leases I believe they have been no losers by it.

[——— to her aunt, ABIGAIL HARLEY.]

1717, September 30—I can truly tell my dear aunt your birds and cheese was received with the greatest pleasure, and ate the former with as good an appetite. She ate both at a time at between 12 and 1 o'clock at night. It has satisfied her perfectly, and I suppose designs to give her thanks very speedily. I had writ sooner, but when I tell you I have been to visit Stars and Garters,* you will I dare say excuse me. I endeavoured to behave myself as well as I could, and hoped I performed tolerably well till dinner and supper-time, and then was so confounded with fine dishes and French names, having none but my own mother tongue, that had not eyesight been better than my understanding I must have fasted for fear of eating what I did not know what was the proper name of it. There was not a suit of hangings, looking-glass nor cabinet, that was adorned with those emblems of honour, and had the greatest lady in England been there could not have been treated with more respect. He (Lord Strafford) met us upon a fine prancing horse, nay, I may say a very beautiful one, set out as fine as his trappings could make him, the rider not falling short of anything that could dazzle the eyes of the beholders. We were attended in this form to the hall-door where the lady performed her part there in a very obliging manner. We had every day all the diversions as could be invented for ladies, and after staying three or four days there had all the sorrow showed at parting that could be desired. She is indeed, I do believe, a very good

* Wentworth Castle, Yorkshire. Lord Strafford's.

humoured woman. The house will be fine when finished, it is a very fine front, having fifteen large sash windows, the length. There is the picture of the three kings that dined with him all in a piece, but there is nothing so fine as I see at Keeton* We have since been at Lord Bingley's [Bramham], which is the beautifullest place I ever see for woods and walks, I am sure it would delight my uncle mightily. The house is a very pretty compacted thing, but nothing fine, but the hall is remarkable, all finished within with stone and pillars in it finely carved. You are I fear by this time tired with my travels, wanting a better pen and words to set them out, but to make you with pleasure read on to the end of my letter, I will now tell you all the family is well here, and particularly my lady, who never looked better. Keeton family we often hear of, that little lord grows finely. You were entirely in the right that the Dappers would put Lord C[armarthe]n in the crowd of the young lady's admirers, which they never fail of, and though I seemed to tell you above, I was drawing there a conclusion of my letter, yet cannot help going on with a story that has happened concerning that lady not altogether unlike the adventures of Don Quixote or some of those famous heroes. There arrived at a place called Barnby Moor, an esquire well-dressed, and all things answerable to a knight errant, enquired if there was not such a great fortune as the lady before-mentioned in that neighbourhood. It was answered there was. He made inquiry if there was not a servant in the family which was superior to the rest that he could speak to; they told him there was; which servant he sent to, and told his errand, and he introduced him to his old lady. The esquire said he came from a young Scotch Lord, but he was answered as all are:—she is young, and does not think of marrying yet. Should the Dappers know I gave this account, the next time I see them I must expect they will burst and stifle me with spleen.

Postscript.—I had forgot to tell you that on the 28th of the last month, we saw those lights in the air, I think much stronger than when I was in town, and continued longer.

Our baby has two teeth, laughs, and breeds them with a great deal of ease.

GEORGE [SMALRIDGE], BISHOP OF BRISTOL, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1717, September 30. Christ Church—I am sorry for the unhappy occasion I had of paying my respects to your Lordship at the Tower, and of doing you justice at Westminster. I shall be proud of a more agreeable opportunity of shewing the grateful sense I have of your repeated favours to Christ Church, and your goodness to myself.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717,] November 7—The Convocation was prorogued till the 8th instant, and is to meet to-morrow, and, as is believed, will by a royal writ be prorogued to the 22nd of February. The Duke of Newcastle ordered Mr. Buckley to put it in the "Gazette" and "Daily Courant" that Doctors Sherlock and Snape were removed not by his but the

* Kiveton? a seat of the Duke of Leeds.

King's special command. Some say that the removal of them in this juncture, and with these circumstances is equivalent to the King's writing a preface to the Bishop of Bangor's answer to the representation of the Lower House of Convocation, which is to be published ten days hence, as the Bishop's brother and bookseller say. The King nominated Dr. Gray one of his chaplains to succeed the Bishop of Lincoln in the Cantor's and Residentiary's place in the Chapter of Chichester, which two dignities had been promised to Dr. Sherlock when he was made Dean, and likewise the place of Master of the Hospital. The King has undoubted right to nominate the Cantor, which is the Bishop's right, and he being a patron the King preferring Dr. Gibson has right, but the Chapter resolves to try their right of electing a Residentiary, it being like a fellowship elective. Dr. Gray waiting on the Dean Sherlock yesterday, was told by him that he might get the King's mandamus, and then the Chapter would consider their case.

Lord Brooke's lady was brought to bed to-day of a son.

The Earl of Carlisle was to set out from his house in Yorkshire on Monday last, and after his arrival here Lady Frances Spencer's marriage with Lord Morpeth will be consummated, and it is not doubted the Earl of Sunderland's marriage will be soon after. They say the Duchess of Marlborough was at first very clamorous against it, and says now that all the world will see that she does not guide him, and that he is a very obstinate creature. The Earl of Sunderland being resolved to marry and to be free of the trouble of accounts and family concerns, and having his estate settled upon his children already born, could not propose a woman of fortune, and having heard from his last lady and Mrs. Grimnell, a good character of Colonel Stanley's lady, especially on the account of having educated so well two nieces of hers, he thought he could not do better than to marry one of them. Their father was Captain Titchborne, who was killed in Flanders, brother to Sir Harry now Lord Titchborne, and to Mrs. Stanley. Their aunt Stanley had long solicited the Duke and Duchess of Ormond to procure a pension from the late Queen for their maintenance and education, but did not succeed. Afterwards Sir John Stanley's lady by her brother Lansdowne, got 100*l.* per annum from her Majesty for them. The eldest had been often in visits with her aunt, but the younger did not see company, and was much in the country at Colonel Stanley's house. The Earl expected to have had the elder, but when he made the proposal he was told she was engaged to Mr. Pulteney, who is one of the Commissioners of Trade, and then he resolved to make the proposal to the second, though she was not so much known to Mrs. Grimnell as the other, and the relation of the young lady, whom he employed to make the proposition, did all he could to divert him from it, telling him freely that she was too young, not being much past fifteen, and of no experience as to family keeping or accounts, and no beauty, having somewhat of a squint look. But nothing did discourage him, and so the friend went to her in the country, and she is come since to her uncle, Colonel Stanley's in Poland Street, where the Earl waits on her. He said to her friends that his estate was about 5,000*l.* a year, that he was in some debt, that he could make no provision for children, but could make a jointure. They say he has promised to settle 1,000*l.* a year, which he can do.

Lady Islay came to London some weeks since. She was with the Duchess of Argyll near Edinburgh, and came from thence incognito. She

and her woman set out on foot, afterwards they got horses and came by Carlisle to Warrington, where they took places in a wagon, and came that way to Towcester. An apothecary belonging to the Duchess's family overtook them at Warrington, and waited on them to Towcester. He gave advice of it to Earl Islay here, who went out in a coach and six to meet her, but she had given the slip to the apothecary at Towcester, having after he was abed gone to a neighbouring inn and found a conveniency to go without him and in another road. Some say she had writ to the King and is in town under her mother's direction. The Duchess of Newcastle was ill, and Mr. Blundel and the King's French surgeon, as reported, waited on her. Some say she had a fall from a horse, others somewhat of a "squmance," and not a few spoke of a very different occasion of it. Mr. Bisse of the House of Commons, and Mr. Bray have got a reversion of the grant of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. The great apartment at St. James's was ordered not to be opened on the Prince's birthday. None of the Hanoverian Ministers were present at that solemnity, neither Sunderland, Roxburgh, nor Stanhope were there. They say the Lord Chancellor was there, Messrs. Baily and Wallop of the Treasury were there, eight Bishops, Canterbury and Norwich were two, Argyll was in blue velvet, richly embroidered and very magnificent, with a shoulder knot, as had likewise Lords Lumley, Stanhope, Hervey, Horton, &c., in imitation of the Prince, who has worn one ever since the Court went out of mourning. Some say they may have an order of the Shoulder Knot, as the King of France of the Pavilion. It is doubted whether the King spoke to the Prince at the visit he made to the Princess on Monday. Mr. Berkeley, brother to the Lord of that name, wrote from Paris of the 2nd of November that Earl Stair had said publicly at his table that Bolingbroke was under the King's protection, and this day it is reported here that Bolingbroke was introduced by Stair to the Regent. They speak differently of Lord Trevor. Some say he would not accept of anything, and that he would do nothing but on honourable terms. Others say he will be Chancellor or President of the Council, but this is not much credited. However, it is not doubted that he met several times with the Earl of Sunderland, and it is not known whether Lord Trevor acquainted his old friends with it. There has been talk and is still of changes, but may be without ground, at least before the session opens. Some say the King will return the 250,000*l.* having had no occasion to dispose of it. Baron Bentrieder, the Imperial envoy here, has kept his bed these last three days. It is said the Court here is displeased with Peterborough for having dined with the Legate, the Court having resolved to have satisfaction, and having wrote by Hoffman to Galas for the Pope, obliging his secretary and Minister Paluri to give it under his hand that the Pope was not concerned in ordering the arresting the Earl, and that the Legate should be punished and security given that none of the King's subjects should be hereafter disturbed on account of the Pretender, nor the Pretender and his adherents encouraged hereafter, otherwise to expect a squadron of men-of-war to bombard Civita Vecchia, and use otherwise military executions at the expense of the Pontiff. It is assured that when Mr. Walpole waited on the King at Newmarket, upon his presenting himself the King turned aside without taking notice of him, and it is added that the Lord in waiting was ordered not to invite him, and no other of the public tables to do it.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717,] November 14. London—The Earl of Sunderland and Lord Stanhope declare they had no hand in proroguing the Convocation. The Archbishop of Canterbury says he was neither consulted with nor consenting to it, and said further that Lord Cadogan governed both Church and State. There has been a general talk of animosity and jealousy between Lords Stanhope and Cadogan, and they begin now to report that the Court is dissatisfied with both. Some say Stanhope was for breaking of some of the latest raised corps, but that Cadogan opposed it. It was talked yesterday that Cadogan was removed or to be soon, but this needs very much confirmation, he being as generally believed much in the King's, Bernsdorff's, and the Duchess of Munster's favour. Some say the House of Peers, others the House of Commons, will attack him. However all this be, he was yesterday with Carnarvon and Craggs and some others closely and long in the Secretary of War's office.

The Princess was not an hour in labour. About an hour after the Lord Hervey was despatched to Hampton Court to notify the delivery, who arrived there about eight o'clock on the Saturday night, but the King before ten sent off Portland with a compliment of felicitation to the Princess, and he did not return to Hampton Court till about one of the clock on Sunday, and the King having not dined, could not come to London and return that night, but came on Monday. The Prince being in the circle, some told the King was a coming, he went out to the top of the stairs, but the King being on the stairs, and they the back stairs, the Prince stopped at the stair head, and was obliged to retire to give way to the King, who went straight to the Princess's apartment, and when the door was opened none but the King and Prince went in. There was no speech or ceremony between the King and Prince before he went into the Princess's room. The King went up to the nursery and saw the child suck. It is believed the King did not at all speak to the Prince. Some blame the Prince for not having written with Lord Hervey to the King on the occasion of the message, and others censure his not going on the Tuesday following to Hampton Court to thank his Majesty. The Duke of Newcastle and Duchess of St. Albans are to stand with the King as godfathers and godmother at the baptism. It was said that the Duke of Newcastle came from Hampton Court to St. James's, and desired some to acquaint the Prince that he had a message from his Majesty to him, and would in less than two hours wait on him, being obliged to go to his house first, and that he at the appointed time returned, and acquainted the Prince that the King was resolved to be godfather, and that he and his lady were to be the other two sponsors. But be this tale as it may be, true or false, it is more credibly reported that the Prince and Princess were and are very uneasy with the Duke's being to be godfather, and it is said the Princess did not rest or sleep well all that night after the message was delivered, and that it was the only night she did not rest well since her delivery. They expected the King would not have named others than himself without their knowledge or consent. Whether the Duchess of St. Albans was named at first or since upon the Prince's representation, is not settled or agreed by the town tatlers. The Duchess of Argyll was three days in labour. Dr. Chamberlain was sent for, but being pre-engaged to Abingdon and Hereford, he declined to wait on her, whereupon the Duke of Argyll wrote to the Prince for Dr. Hamiltoun,

who was with the Princess, and he went, and in few hours after she was brought to bed; she and her daughter are well. The Lady Fretchevil died at Windsor, as said on Sunday. Mrs. Barton is married to Mr. Condite, who was secretary to Portmore in Portugal, and since storemaster at Gibraltar; his mother keeps the bagnio in Long Acre, having a fourth husband.

Hovenden Walker has sent from Carolina a long circumstantial relation of the Canada expedition, which will be shortly published. In it he reflects severely on the Board of Admiralty, or rather on the Earl of Orford, who was at the head of it. Some say that the Earl of Peterborough, in his Italian Memorial, gives the Pretender the title of Prince. The Court here is angry with him for having dined with the Legate before satisfaction is given for his being arrested. Letters from Paris say the King of Spain's illness increases.

The Earl of Sunderland has desired Colonel Stanley's lady not to provide any clothes for her niece whom he is to marry, because he will do it himself. Lord Molesworth is half brother to Mrs. Stanley and Lord Titchborne. The Earl as said desired several times Lord Molesworth to recommend one for a wife to him, and he not doing it, he told him that he would have one of his and his sister Stanley's recommendation, and they two agreed to recommend the Duke of Kent's daughter, Lady Bell, which they did; but then he said he had so good an opinion of Mrs. Stanley that he would have one of her nieces, who used [to be] much in his lady's time with his children, though he had never seen or taken notice of them. When he found the eldest engaged, he resolved to have the third, who was in the country, and Lord Molesworth went to propose it to her, after he had made very free remonstrances against it. She is not sixteen, and has little of the genteel breeding, but has sense and wit, is very brisk, and is not doubted but in a short time with seeing company, will appear and make a good figure. She and the second have 500*l.* apiece, the eldest 100*l.* by their aunt's improvement.

The Count Volkra has left no great reputation. The Princess in the public circle said to Mr. Hoffman that she could be content to hear of his having endured a storm, and that she could not forgive him for losing her present to the Empress, nor easily believe that it alone should be stolen out of his house and nothing of his own, and that she was tempted to believe that he had given it to his mistress. They tell among other stories that he used to go alone to see his mistress, and carry himself a bottle of wine and cold pullet, and what she did not drink he brought back again. Baron Bentenrieder is in great esteem both with the Court and foreign Ministers. The King said he had a great body and as great a mind. The Princess said he had a great body and a great deal of wit, and that Du Bois, though he had not so great a body had no less spirit, and could storm the other by scalado.

Boyer had in his "St. James's Post" said Defoe was the author of the memoirs called Menager's Warner, the bookseller and Defoe have both tried to have advertisements against Boyer, but Berington and others have refused to print them, because too scandalous, one insinuated his being sodomite. Boyer has advertised that Bourdieux has writ to the Bishop of Norwich that Dr. Snape has misrepresented the conversation he had with him. The King gave a warrant on the Treasury for 100*l.* to Armand Bourdieux, who has received it. They say the Lord Stanhope procured it. Boyer says it was for his having

writ so well and zealously for the Protestant succession in the dispute between him and Mr. Rival, but it is more probable that it is for his not writing against Pilloniere, though he had promised to the Archbishop to do it.

Madame Kilmanseck came to town some weeks since on pretence to be with her husband, who has been indisposed, but as others say upon a difference with the Duchess of Munster, and they add that when she complained to the King, he owned to her that the other was in the wrong, but he would not interpose. There was an assembly kept in the Tennis Court before the Princess came to St. James's, the which on the change of the season was transferred to a gallery in the Palace, where was every night the Duchess of Munster and the neighbouring ladies. The King sometimes playing at billiards, and other times looking upon her with those that played at cards, on Sunderland at chess with Mr. ——, and upon other Piqueteers. The Earl of Essex, who is come from Paris, tells that no hoops are used there but the ladies drink hard, and that when he was at the great treat so many days at Chantilly they outdid the men. The Duke of Atholl has received no marks of favour at Court, but Lord Lovat has very great ones, a pension of 500*l*., constant admission to the King in spite of the Duke of Roxburgh and others, and one of the most frequent guests at the royal table, to the great mortification of the Duke of Atholl.

Brigadier Grant continues in his disorder, is in private lodgings, but under the care of the physician of Bedlam, and in iron cuffs, governed by two of those who manage mad people. He is not furious nor any ways malicious, only rails much against Cadogan. They say Bernsdorff and Bothmar waited on the Princess with a message from the King before the Prince and she left Hampton. It is thought there will be a marriage of Hartington and Mrs. Hodgekins [Hoskins?], whose late father was steward to the Duke of Bedford. Lord Granby was married many weeks since to Lord Lexington's daughter. The ladies and populace have been frighted with fears of a comet, of which much has been said without any ground.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717,] November 15. Friday—Though yesterday's "Post-boy" said Lord Cadogan was retired to the country, he was at Court on Wednesday and yesterday. On Thursday, the Archbishop of Canterbury with his Bishops, who were in town, waited on the King, and were received in his closet, where the Archbishop made the compliment of felicitation on the birth of the Prince. The same day the Mayor of London with his attendants attended his Majesty, who received them in the great room, and the Recorder made their compliment. The day for the christening is not fixed. Some say the Duke of York will be a god-father, and that his name will be George. Bentenreider is recovered, and was at Court yesterday. Count Kilmanseck is dangerously ill, and despaired of. Staigardale and Garth are his physicians. The Marquis Monteleone is to hold an assembly thrice a week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, the Countess of Bristol on Thursdays, and Mr. Petkum on Mondays and Fridays. Colonel Butler has taken the house that Rosencrantz had formerly in Arlington Street for Mr. Petkum. They say the King of Spain has made his will.

Mr. Rival has published in yesterday's "Courant" a long advertisement against Bourdieux. Lady Masham showed to one who is come from the Bath, a letter from Dr. Arbuthnot to her, wherein amongst other particulars he said Lord Trevor had been four hours with the King in his closet, but would not come into the administration without his old friends. It was said in town that he was two hours, which were easily turned to four, but those who were at Hampton Court, and saw him go into the cabinet, assured he did not stay half an hour. Her Ladyship talked very freely of old transactions to some of a very late acquaintance, and to whom it might be thought an experienced Stateswoman would not have talked so much. Clermont is whole and not half brother to the Duke of Bourbon, Count Charalois, Mademoiselle Charalois as the "Flying Post" said.

It is not credited that the Grand Seigneur is deposed or strangled, the Imperial parties who have been as said as far as Sophia not having heard of it, and it is less probable that a son of his brother is set on the throne; he had not a brother sultan older called Mustapha, nor it is certain his name Achmet. He succeeded to Achmet his uncle, who succeeded to his brother Solyman, who both were brothers to Mahomet the 4th, who was deposed, and the present Sultan by what accounts are clear was son to the deposed Mahomet. The Turkish History by Savage is very unclear on this head. He calls the present Sultan Achmet, but the effigies in the place has the title of Mustapha.

Mr. Graverol has written very severely against Pilloniere. He was the French Minister at Lyons. He who has published the Memoirs of Cardinal de Retz is to publish very long and particular memoirs of Madame de Maintenon. Endeavours are used to keep Horatio Walpole from being chosen again. The Czar and King of Sweden are like to make either a truce or a peace. The great difficulty is about Revel. The King cannot be master of Livonia or the Baltic Sea without it but is willing as said to yield to the Czar Ingria with Petersburg, and its harbour Cronstadt and Narva, which gives him the benefit of sending all his commodities by the Baltic.

Sir Isaac Newton is ready to publish his book again of colours and light with large improvements. There is no more talk here of Peterborough or bombarding the Pope. Some whispered lately that the Earl of Mar was gone into Spain, though others talk of his being to be restored and return. Boyer in his "St. James's Post" said that Macartney though in the late ministry and by Colonel Hamilton had been in so great danger of his life was very zealously soliciting a pension for Hamilton's widow who died at least seven years ago.

There was a ball and concert of music at Hampton Court on Monday, and the King played with Ladies Newborough and Boscawen when the others were dancing. Many remarked that Lovat, Macartney, Mirmont, Lifford, Montander and others of no quality or figure were oftenest at the king's table, and one Count Brandburg, formerly a Capuchin, who is of a very bad character, whereof more per next. The King continued till one o'clock in the morning. Mrs. Johnson of Twickenham, who is with child again, was at the ball, and her husband is frequently at Court, and one of the diners.

It was in the last Paris "A-la-main" said that the page of the King's stable, who is an Englishman, and having accompanied his brother to St. Denis, in his way for England was seized by some other Englishmen who met them there and carried off in a post-chaise, was stopped, and

sent back from Calais, and that he was called Hels, whose grandfather had been governor to the late King James. Some here suspected he had been a brother of the Lord Jersey. The King has no drawing-room now neither morning nor evening, and is not like to have one except perhaps on Sunday after chapel.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717,] November 21. Thursday—His Majesty in his speech took notice of the care he had of their meeting early, of the reduction of the army to one half of what it had been, of his having disposed of a small part of the 250,000*l.*, whereof the particular account would be laid before the House, and that the remainder should be applied as desired for public service, and of his concern for the Protestant religion, &c. The minutes of the Commons' resolutions thereupon shall be inclosed. The young Prince is not christened. The Lord Townshend came to town last week. Mr. Walpole was expected to come on Tuesday night. The Earl of Carlisle is not come as yet, he was to have set out from his house in Yorkshire on Monday was se'nnight, and had taken places in the York coach for some of his servants, but a fit of the gout, as said, hindered him from coming. He has been to take the air if not a hunting since. One of his daughters is to be married to the Lord Irwin. His son's marriage and daughter's, as they say, depend on his coming hither, but as some say he won't come before Christmas.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717, November 26.] Tuesday—The Lords on Monday received an appeal and adjourned till Wednesday. This day the Commons took into consideration yesterday's motion for Supply, resolved, *nem. con.*, that a supply be granted to his Majesty. Ordered the report to-morrow. Mr. Aislaby reported that the address of yesterday to congratulate his Majesty on the increase of the Royal Family, &c., had been presented, and that his Majesty received the same very graciously, and returns his thanks to this House for their kind expressions and duty to him on this occasion. Then adjourned.

They write from Florence that the Duke of Gordon with the Earl of Peterborough was come there from Bologna. The Regent of France has reduced the number of galleys from 40 to 15. Though the King of Spain is better, and receives visits especially from the Grandees, it is thought he will not live long. The Duke of Bucks has been ill, but is recovered. The Duchess of Shrewsbury has a fit of the gout. It is said the Lord Irwin will buy Lumley's regiment of horse. The Prince was not at chapel the two last Sundays. He was in the drawing-room yesternight, but stayed very short while; he had been at the playhouse. Some say the young Prince will be baptised on Thursday. The drawing-room is to be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. Mr. Petkum is to begin his assembly on Thursday, and was resolved, as reported, to invite the King and (suite?) on occasion of the Prince's birth. A great part of the Bishop of Bangor's new book is personally against Dr. Sherlock, and a passage directed to Dr. Cannon relating to the two queries about the King's supremacy.

Some say that Carnarvon, on account of his having ground to build in St. James's Park, is to pave the highway from Devonshire House to Hyde Park Corner, and to allow 100*l.* per annum for maintaining and repairing it. Mr. Shippen, offering an amendment to the address touching the Church, gave occasion to Walpole to say somewhat, whereupon Mr. Lechmere took rise to attack him, and that it is like gave occasion to the call of the House on Monday se'nnight.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717, November 27.] Wednesday—The Prince on Monday was in the play-house to see "Don Quixote" which he had commanded, and when he returned to St. James's he went to the drawing-room, and advanced to his Majesty, who was playing at ombre, and made a low submission, and then went off, and in less than half a quarter of an hour left the drawing-room. This was the first visit or compliment made by him since the King's return from Hampton Court. The ladies at Court say the King has visited the Baroness Kilmansegg twice; he offered to visit her before the Baron's being buried, but she excused herself from the ceremony. They say the King has not visited the Princess since he came last to St. James's. Some say the baptism of the young Prince will be to-night, more say it will be to-morrow, and others say on Saturday, being St. Andrew's day. The King gives a collar, a chain, and medal to every knight of the order, has recalled the old collar and medal, and altered something of the colour. The Lord Morpeth is to be married to-morrow, and Sunderland next week as supposed. The Earl of Carlisle is not come to town, all the settlement was to be executed in the country. This day in the Commons House, Mr. Aislaby moved for reducing the interest to four, Mr. Shippen, and as said other Tories, opposed it. Mr. Smith teller was speeching against it.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717, November 30.] Saturday—The Lords on Wednesday resolved to address His Majesty on the happy birth of the young Prince, and resolved to send a congratulatory message to the Prince and Princess on the same occasion, and then adjourn till Monday. The Bishop of Chester is come to town. Mr. Reil has declared his marriage at Oxford. She is a daughter of a brother of Clement the book-seller, and was a servant when he first married her some years ago. Dr. Green of St. Martin's is not dead as was reported, but still in danger. The Lord Onslow was given over by his physicians, who despaired of his life yesterday, but they find him not worse this day, and he breathes more freely. The Duke of Marlborough, as said, was to wait on the Prince of Wales lately, but was refused audience.

The present talk is about what happened upon the christening of the young Prince, much to this effect.—That the Prince of Wales after the baptism, went to the Duke of Newcastle, who was near the King, and whispered in his ear that he was as is reported a villain or rascal, and that he would find him. The Duke did inform the King of it, and as said, that he would fight him. The King next day sent the Dukes of Roxburgh, Kent, and Kingston, with a written message to know what the precise words were, and to notify to him that his Majesty

resented the insulting his chamberlain in his presence. 'Tis said the Prince owned his having called him, &c., but did not say that he would fight, which was below him, but find him, which the critics say answers to *Je vous trouveroi*. When the Dukes had made their report, his Majesty would have sent them back with another message, but the Duke of Roxburgh got himself excused, and the Lord Chancellor was sent for to go in his room with the other two Dukes, who carried an order written by the King to confine the Prince to his chamber till further order. They say Roxburgh desired to be excused because when he told the Prince that the Duke of Newcastle had desired to be excused from being god-father, the Prince said he did not believe it. 'Tis said that after the Prince and Princess had declared against the Duke's being god-father, Baron Bernsdorff had waited on the Princess to let her know that the Duke of York should be god-father, but that the Duke of Newcastle, and some others represented that the alteration of the Duke of Newcastle would be derogatory from the King, who had nominated him, and from the Duke of Newcastle, whose dignity and post qualified him for it. Whether this last or all the circumstances of the former part of this news be true or not, time will clear, but this and to this purpose is the subject of private conversation, which may perhaps need confirmation.

The Prince has not been in the chapel since the King came from Hampton Court; his clerk of the Closet, Harris, is to christen tomorrow the Duke of Argyll's daughter, and has deputed another of the Prince's chaplains to attend the Prince if he go to chapel. Bromley and Hanmer moved for something relating to what officers were disbanded, &c. The prints say that the D[uchess] of St. Albans stood for the Queen of Prussia, but that may be a mistake. The stocks fell 2 per cent. to-day. The Duke of Gordon is with the Earl of Peterborough.

News Letter.

[1717, end of November]—The Countess of Carlisle was at her son's marriage. It was thought the Earl of Sunderland would have been married this week, if Morpeth could get into his own house. He is to marry the third sister, who has never seen company. Dr. Garth said that he was to marry one to take care of his family, and instead of a grey head, had gotten a girl of fifteen, but in three months after he would be in the Alley again. The Dr. says likewise he wished the young Prince had had his baptism in the Anabaptist way, after he had come to the use of reason. The Duke of Marlborough went into the King's closet about one of the clock; he was in the Cabinet when it was resolved to order the Prince to leave immediately the Royal Palace. Mr. Smith, teller, is zealous for the Court. Cadogan is censured for taking great airs. Orford is very much displeased with the proceeding of the Court.

News Letter.

[1717,] December 3. Tuesday—Yesterday, after two of the clock, Mr. Vice Chamberlain Coke was sent for by his Majesty, and he received a written order to the Prince to command him to leave the Royal Palace that day, and it was left to the Princess to go with him, or stay

some time longer as she pleased, and the children to stay with liberty to her to see them, or they go to her. Between seven and eight, they left St. James's, and went to Lord Grantham's, and all the family except some inferior servants decamped the same night. It is said the Duke of Devonshire offered them his house, and that they will accept of it. Some say the Duke of Buckingham has offered his, but both these need confirmation. The Princess as said is out of order, and did swoon for a long time upon her coming into Grantham's house. They say the Prince wrote on Saturday and on Sunday to his Majesty. Lord Lumley carried the last, and it was delivered to the King before he went to chapel on Sunday, and upon receiving it he sent for Lords Sunderland and Stanhope. Lord Onslow is still alive, but no hopes of his living. The Duke of Buckingham is ill, but keeps not his bed.

NEWS LETTER.

1717, December 3. London—Statement in French, drawn up by direction of the King, of the matters in dispute between him and the Prince of Wales.* At foot of this is written in English:—

The Secretaries are to send the above to the several ministers at the Courts of their respective provinces. Mr. Shippen was voted to the Tower yesterday for words to this purpose that the paragraph on which the motion had been made about the reduction of the army was more calculated for the meridian of Germany than of Great Britain, and that the only infelicity was that the King was a stranger to the language and constitution of the kingdoms. This day, the House of Commons was upon the army. The Lords yesterday received an appeal, and adjourned to Friday.* They say the Prince and Princess sent for Baron Bernsdorff yesterday morning, and that he came to them yesternight, which makes some hope there may [be] an accommodation. The Princess had been ill, and subject to fainting fits, but yesterday afternoon was better, and rested better last night. Lord Lumley has resigned the horse grenadiers, and it is said Lords Stanhope, Herbert, and Mr. Paget have resigned their posts in the army. Colonel Oughton, and as said the Marquis of Hertford have resigned their places about the Prince. The Duchesses of St. Albans and Montague, the Ladies Hinchinbrook and Cowper, have resigned theirs about the Princess. The Duke of Marlborough wrote to all concerned in the army, who had posts under the Prince, to resign them, or those in the army, and not to wait on the Prince. Mr. Cotterel notified to all the foreign ministers, either not to see the Prince, or not to come to Court.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717, December 3.]—The difference between the King and the Prince is likely to make so great a noise in the world that you will probably be curious to know what can have been the cause of such an unfortunate event. I shall therefore endeavour to give you as full a relation of the whole matter as you can expect from a man who is at so great a distance from the Court as I am, and is informed of nothing but by third or fourth hand.

* Annexed is a printed translation of the statement with copy of the circular letter signed by Joseph Addison, as Secretary of State, said to have been "sent to all the Foreign Ministers."

It seems the Prince and Princess in their familiar letters to the Duke of York and Queen of Prussia had formerly desired them to baptize the first child that the Princess should have after her coming to England, which they promised, and the Prince and Princess put them in mind of immediately after the young Prince was born. The King, knowing nothing of these engagements, which had been made without his privity, determined to stand himself, with the Duke of Newcastle and the Duchess of St. Albans. The Prince and Princess begged his Majesty to alter this resolution, but he refused, and the enemies of the Duke of Newcastle say that his Grace gave out he had carried his point against the Prince and Princess. The Prince being much out of humour with this proceeding, as soon as the christening was over, withdrew with the Duke of Newcastle into the corner of the room, and told him he was a rascal and a villain. The Duke complained to the King of this treatment, upon which the King sent the Dukes of Kent, Kingston and Roxburgh to the Prince to know whether he owned the words, which he did. On Friday the King called a Council, after which the Lord Chancellor was sent to the Prince with a writing of the King's own hand (not countersigned) requiring the Prince to remain confined in his apartment, under pain of his highest displeasure, and soon after the Vice Chamberlain brought another order that none but the Prince's own servants should be admitted to him; both these orders were obeyed.

On Saturday, the Prince writ a letter of submission to the King, and another on Sunday, both carried by Lord Lumley and both received. On Monday the Vice Chamberlain delivered to the Prince an order, written in the King's own hand, requiring him forthwith to leave St. James's, that the Princess might stay a few days longer if she pleased, that she should have leave from time to time to see her children upon application to the King, and that he would send them to see the Prince when he thought fit. Yesterday at nine o'clock at night the Prince and Princess retired to Lord Grantham's in Dover Street, in the utmost grief and disorder, the Prince cried for two hours, and the Princess swooned several times.

News Letter.

[1717,] December 5, Thursday—The Lords yesterday received an appeal, and adjourned to Friday. The Commons sat last night till past eleven o'clock, and then the division concerning the words spoken by Mr. Shippen was 175 against 81. This day the Commons went into a Grand Committee on the supply, and resumed the adjourned debate about the reduction of the Army, and came to the following resolution, that the number of men of guards and garrisons for Great Britain, &c. be 16,347, including commission and non-commissioned officers; that 681,618*l.* be granted for that service, and proceed to-morrow.

This night after nine o'clock, I sent by the post a letter to your Lordship with the King's relation of what has passed in the Royal Family, on the occasion of the baptism, which is a true copy of what the Secretaries are to send to the several Ministers in foreign Courts in their respective provinces. The Princess has been in great disorder since her coming from St. James's, and that which troubled her much seemed to be her being separated from the children, and to be deprived of Madame Gamin's, their gouvernante's assistance. Several physicians were called yesterday morning; after three o'clock in the afternoon she grew better,

and rested indifferently well last night. They talk much of a speedy reconciliation, but some have the less expectation of success, because of the King's obstinacy and the Prince's proud temper, and of Baron Bernsdorff's harsh inflexible humour, not proper for facilitating, but more inclined to exact severe conditions. Some say that they will insist for the Prince's entirely abandoning the Duke of Argyll, Earl Ilay, Viscount Townshend and Walpole, and that he take into his family only such as the King shall name or approve. They say the King did not visit the Princess since he came from Hampton Court last, nor saw her but at the Baptism, but that he visited often Madame Kilmanseck.

Yesterday, Mr. Walpole, as they say, began his speech thus:—That as he had formerly declared in the House he did now again that out and in place, he would still speak freely, let them call him Jacobite or what they pleased; and then insisted on several topics, that they might pay 16,000 men with 300,000*l.* less than they do now; and having many papers in his hand said he was ready to demonstrate it, &c.: then spoke against a standing army, and proposed the number 12,000 as sufficient. Mr. Shippen spoke after, and said he was resolved to speak freely as his worthy friend had said, though they should call him a Jacobite or any thing else. He afterwards said that the King's speech was calculated more for the meridian of Germany than Great Britain, and that it was an infelicity the King was a stranger to their language and constitution. Mr. Lechmere, seconded by Sir David Dalrymple, moved for taking down his words. Then the dispute was about them. Mr. Methuen thought he said the King's speech seemed to be; Bromley and Hanmer spoke to the same purpose. Mr. Shippen, they say, allowed the words stranger to the language, but not constitution. However it was carried for these being the words, and voted that it was a reflection on the King's person and government, though some said the speech being the composition of the Ministers, it could not be construed a reflection on the King's person. General Lumley spoke for the number of 16,000 demanded by the Court, and gave his reasons. Sir Joseph Jekyll bestowed some eulogiums on him for it, and amongst other things said that Jacobitism was dwindling, and they say Mr. Shippen in answer said it was not, whereupon Sir Joseph said he was sorry for it, and that he knew that much better than he could pretend to do. Sir Joseph, Mr. Aislaby, Mr. Lechmere, and Mr. Smith were the chief speakers on the Court side. Mr. Walpole, and most if not all of his partisans voted for sending Shippen to the Tower, who supped last night with the Speaker, and was to dine with him this day, and in the ordinary time will go to the Tower. This is what is said without doors, and from second hands having not met with any of the members.

Mr. Cotterell waited on all the foreign ministers to let them know the King expected they should either not see the Prince or not come to Court. Marlborough wrote to all in his province to the same purpose, as did the Chamberlain, the Commissioners for Master of Horse, &c. This night Mr. Hydiker's (Heidegger's) ball was at the Haymarket, which though in mask, is not now to be called masquerade. The Archbishop and Bishop of London are said to concern themselves in the reconciliation. Mr. Petkum began his ball with the Duchess of Kingston, and after dancing, carried them down to a great apartment, where were several shops with signs, a chocolate booth with one in Spanish habit, a coffee house with a master *à la Turc*, a comfiture with a French habit, a booth for liquors with Italian and strong drinks, with one in a Mus-

covite habit, a kitchen with cold meat, and every one of those inviting the company as they came in to their booths, promising them both cheap and of the best. This was in imitation of Taronca's manner of treating at the Hague.

It has been said that the Princess upon the Assembly at St. James's should have said that no honest woman would appear at it. The King plays every drawing night, last night with the Duchesses of Grafton and Portland. They say none are banished the Court but the Prince and the Earl of Oxford. Lord Onslow is alive, but given over.

NEWS LETTER.

1717, December 7. London—I sent you by last Tuesday's post a long account of the differences between the King and the Prince; I have since had an opportunity of reading the relation, which has been communicated to all the Foreign Ministers by the King's order, which is entirely to the same effect as that I sent you, only I could not but observe one passage in it which appeared to me unnecessary to the relation, yet at the same time of great consequence in itself, viz., that though the King was in the room where this outrage was committed upon the Duke of Newcastle, he was at so great a distance that he heard nothing of it, but the Duke of Newcastle thought it his duty to inform him.

Sir Clement Cottrel has by the King's order acquainted all the Foreign Ministers, that if they visit the Prince, they shall not be received at St. James's. Orders are sent to all persons who have employments both under the King and the Prince to quit one or the other. The Ladies whose husbands are in the King's service are likewise to quit the Princess's, but they are permitted to attend her during her present illness, which is very violent, and imputed wholly to her grief for this usage of the Prince and herself, and the separation from her children.

The Prince's party and Mr. Walpole's, making in all but twenty-eight, were against the standing army. There has been a discourse ever since Monday night that there was a treaty of an accommodation on foot, but the Prince told a friend of mine last night there was no such thing. The Prince is broke out in a rash.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717,] December 7. Saturday—The Lords on Wednesday received several petitions for appeals, and read a private bill, adjourned to Monday. The Prince of Wales has been feverish, kept his bed yesterday, has an inflammatory distemper, with bumps in his face, white on the head, and somewhat like a rash. The Princess continues still ill, has long swoons, frequent faintings, startings, and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday was violently attacked with pain and stoppage in her throat. She was cupped yesterday, and if these fits return more may be in great danger. Earl Grantham sent for Dr. Mead, Duchess St. Albans for Dr. Garth, and some sent for Sloane; the King's German physician and Sir David Hamilton are constantly with her. The Princess, they say, sent for Baron Bernsdorff on Wednesday, who came there to her, he was again yesterday with her and the Prince, and was expected to be there

again this day. The Princess Anne with her governess, Madam Gamine, has been with her.

There is a paragraph of Mr. Shippen's speech, handed about, which is as follows:—"I know these assertions interfere with what is laid down in the second paragraph of his Majesty's speech, but we are to consider that speech as the composition and advice of his Ministers, and are therefore at liberty to debate every proposition in it, especially those which seem rather calculated for the meridian of Germany than that of Great Britain. It is the only infelicity of his Majesty's reign that he is unacquainted with our language and constitution, and it is therefore the more incumbent on his British Ministers to inform him that our Government does not stand on the same foundation with his German dominions, which, by reason of their situation, and the nature of their constitution, are obliged to keep up standing armies in time of peace." Mr. Freeman made the motion for having Shippen's words printed. Mr. Aislaby seconded it, and said they were in the Pretender's declaration as some without doors say.

The Earl of Sunderland is married to Mistress Tichborne. The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough go regularly to Court. They say Lord Herbert, Colonels Paget and Killigrew, Captains Killigrew and Stuart and Sir Samuel Leonard have resigned their places under his Majesty; that Lord Hillsborough is to succeed Lord Lumley; and that the Marquis of Winchester, Earl of Hertford, Craggs junior, and Colonel Oughton have resigned their places under the Prince.

The collection at the Sons of the Clergy dinner amounted to 226*l.* The Stocks rise. Several go to Grantham House to know how the Prince and Princess are, without going in. Some say the Spanish Ambassador did go. The ladies who belonged to the Princess are allowed, as said, to wait on her during her illness.

Mr. Walpole spoke much of the inconvenience and danger of a standing army, and largely about the expenses of it, and the methods how to save. Mr. Bromley, it is said, hurt Mr. Shippen by saying he was in pain when he spake, but as he explained himself, he thought upon conscience and honour, he did not deserve the censure proposed. Mr. Smith took him up very severely, and said besides other things that that Shippen had often taken great liberty, and at last had pared his apples so thin that he had cut his fingers, or to this effect. It is not confirmed that the Duke of Somerset offered his houses to the Prince, but it is still said that Bucks, Devon[shire], and some say the Earl of Burlington have done it.

It is reported that the wife of Jones, valet de chambre to the Duke of Portland, is brought to bed at Winchester of three lively children, and the same night, another woman, about three doors from her lodging, of two children. They talk that Mrs. Clayton is very positive not to leave her Princess's service, and that Mr. Clayton in that case must lay down his place in the Exchequer, which is valued better than 1,500*l.* per annum. Mr. Howard is very zealous to have his spouse resign, but she declines the doing it, and as said he acquainted his Majesty thereof, and of his design to get a warrant from the Chief Justice for obliging her, but the King should say that he needed not come to that extremity, for he should not lose his place by her not resigning. Madame Kilmansegg sends messages to know how the Princess does. Messrs. Aislaby and Smith are great speakers on the Court side, and likewise Sir Joseph Jekell and Mr. Chancellor Lechmere. They say that the Comptroller in his speech to demonstrate that the King was not a stranger to the

constitution, and that he had frequent occasions to hear the King when business was treated of, asked if it was according to the laws to do so as was designed.

News Letter.

[1717,] December 14. Saturday—It was reported with great assurance that last week their Royal Highnesses had offered to make an entire submission, but that is not wholly confirmed, but doubted of by many. However, it is still said that the project for reconciliation will be set on foot next week, when it is hoped they will be recovered. It is thought that both, and especially the Princess is inclined to be at St. James's again, and it is thought the more because no steps seem to be taken for any place for them to stay in, though they be much straitened where they are. Many waited on them at their first going to Grantham House but few since. It is said that the Duke of Argyll has neither been consulted nor advised with by the Prince, nor has been with him since he went to Albemarle Street, though others do not believe it. Some say that Devonshire, Townshend, and the Speaker are often with them. Some say that his Majesty has declared that terms will be offered, but that they may be disagreeable. It is said that the publishing the Prince's letters gives offence, and that the Prince disowns his having any hand in it. Doctors Sloane and Garth are dismissed; Mead, Hamilton, and the King's first German Physician continue their attendance on the Princess. Mr. Secretary Addison has been ill long, and had lately an apoplectic fit, but on bleeding was relieved, and is better, this day, though reported to be dead; but his life is still despaired of, his will made, and affairs settled. The Earl of Nottingham is not come, nor will as said come to town, nor suffer his son Lord Finch, though he earnestly desires it. Colonel Fane is to have Lumley's horse grenadiers, and Hinchinbrook his regiment of foot. It is said the Bill for repealing some incapacitating Acts on account of Church Communion will be brought in soon, and that this Session will be finished before the end of January. Some still imagine that it will not be easy to make the reconciliation, and the terms will be high, but all is conjecture only.

News Letter.

[1717,] December 17, Tuesday—The Prince and Princess are recovered. Baron Bernsdorff was long with them on Saturday. Some say his Majesty has desired that the Duchess of St. Alban's, the Lady Cowper, &c., not to attend her any longer, having had leave only to do it during her illness. It is generally believed they will make a submission, and then the King will declare on what terms he will receive them; most think they will be high and disagreeable. It is positively said by credible persons that Argyll has not been with the Prince of late, and some say the Prince did not desire it. It is reported that Duke Argyll is gone or going to Holland, but this is very uncertain. It is said Devonshire has been with him, and it is thought the Court does not take it amiss, but it is not so, as said, with regard to Townshend and the Speaker, who they say visit him. Several went the first days of his being at Grantham House, but not many since. The Prince says he had no knowledge of his letters being made public. His Majesty declares that the first two letters were in the hands of his Ministers,

but that the last was never out of his own. Some say the Speaker gave six of the printed copies to members in the House. It is said the Session will be short, but that it may continue some part of February. Mr. Addison is better, but his constitution broken with a complication of distempers, dropsy, asthma, &c., and not like to live long, or be fit for business. They talk of Hampden, Boscawen, and Craggs junior, to succeed him. There is a flying story of the King of Prussia's having killed one of his Ministers of State, Monsieur Printz, Grand Maréchal, Governor of the Palace, and president of the Consistoire, but this may probably be false. A letter from that Court says that, "*La Cour est dans une triste situation*," and another from Hanover mentions the King of Prussia's having a fit, &c.: but there is no credible account of it come by the last post, though it has been talked of here some days before the post came.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717,] December 19. Thursday—The Duchess of Roxburgh's eldest daughter is dangerously ill of the small-pox. Some say the Lord Finch is come to town. Mr. Addison is out of present danger, but not like to recover ever perfectly. They talk of a marriage between the Lord Mansel's son, and Cloudesley Shovell's daughter, whose fortune is reckoned 100,000*l.*, and of another between the Lord Lonsdale and the eldest daughter of the Earl of Sunderland by his late lady. The Duke of Argyll came to town with his Duchess and family on Tuesday. The report of his going to Holland has been without any ground, but it is confirmed that he has not been with the Prince.

The case of the Royal family seems to be in the same situation it has been for a long time. It was said they were to return this day to St. James's, which is not confirmed. The Archbishop of Canterbury was with the Princess two hours, as said, on Monday, and he told several that the reconciliation was in a very good way, but nothing has appeared as yet to others of it; he extols mightily her prudence. It is said this day that the King has acquainted their Highnesses with the conditions and terms which he expects from them, in order to their returning to his palace, and they say that he demands a surrender of their patent for 100,000*l.*, and that he shall not pretend to the Regency, when the King goes abroad, and that he shall go with him to Hanover, and that he shall have none about him but what are approven by his Majesty, and go into the same measures with his own servants. All this is said with great assurance, but whether true or not is not certain, or to be depended upon.

The King has a drawing room thrice a week, and plays himself at one of the tables with some of the ladies. His Majesty visits the Countess of Kilmansegg twice a week. The Duchess of Munster has made a visit to her. It was said the Countess left Hampton Court upon some misunderstanding between them.

Upon Mr. Craggs, junior, speaking against the addressing for the lists of half-pay officers, and the warrants for dispensing with their oath, to be laid before the House, Mr. Lechmere, as said, spake with great emotion and his usual warmth, saying to this purpose, that he was surprised with some persons for seeming unwilling to have the House satisfied with what they were so much concerned in, &c. It is said the Commons discover great abuses in the article of the half-pay officers.

A fire, this afternoon, begun in a wax chandler's near Charing Cross, burnt furiously before the water engines came, but was soon after extinguished.

Peterborough is arrived at Paris. The ship *Sarah* arrived from Carthagena has brought 148 bars of gold, each valued at 6*l.* sterling. Last Sunday, the tide ebbed and flowed twice in the morning. Sir Isaac Newton has advanced something new in the last edition of his Optics, which has surprised his physical and theological disciples.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717,] December 21, Saturday—Sir Harry Bellasis is dead. The Lord Cadogan is ill of an aguish fever in his head. The Pretender is ill again of a fistula, and the surgeons are afraid of a second operation, because if he do escape under it his life will probably be very languishing. Count Coningseck, Imperial Ambassador at Paris, has a fistula, and resolves to undergo the operation. The Dukes of Marlborough and Newcastle were in the box with the King at the play on Thursday. The accommodation is in no great forwardness. Abbot du Bois is arrived from Paris. The four Royal children were yesterday at Grantham House to see their Highnesses. The guineas are to be cried down on Monday to 21 shillings. The answer to Bentenrieder's express is not yet arrived from Vienna.

[EDWARD HARLEY to his nephew, LORD HARLEY].

1717, December 21—Finding a great disposition in several persons to build in the Marybone grounds, I have desired Mr. Seal to get a plan of the whole, with which we are to go to Lord Bingley. I have been with Lord Harcourt, who will build one house for himself.

A proclamation is issuing that guineas shall go for no more than one pound, one shilling.

1717, December 26—The persons who propose to take ground for building in Marybone fields are:—Lord Dartmouth, Lord Carnarvon, Lord Harcourt, Lord Bingley, Lord Bathurst, Lord Castleton. Those beginning, will, in all probability, quickly build the whole ground, but measures must be taken for laying out the ground, and adjusting the ground rents, that there may be a beginning, and that the present inclination may not be checked.

NEWS LETTER.

1717, December 26—The King has ordered his pleasure to be signified to all peers and peeresses, and all councillors and their wives, that they who go to see their Royal Highnesses come not into his presence. They say the King has sent the last message he designs to the Prince. Their Royal Highnesses resolve to communicate on Sunday next at St. James's parish church. The Duke of Shrewsbury, Lord Carleton, and others waited lately on the Prince. The Duchess of Shrewsbury attends the Princess as usual. Mrs. Howard has broke with her husband, and continues to wait on the Princess, some say Mr. Clayton has left her. Sir Nicholas Sherburn, father of the Duchess of Norfolk, is dead. Decreased this week in the burials 41. Last year there died 990 less than the former year.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717,] December 26—The last post brought you the death of the Duke of Buckingham's only daughter, and of the Duchess of Roxburgh's eldest daughter. The expectation of a reconciliation in the Royal family is very much abated, if not wholly vanished, many thinking it impracticable in the present circumstances. The King has forbid any peers, peeresses, privy councillors, etc., coming to Court, who go to see their Royal Highnesses. The Duke of Rutland came to town on a Saturday, waited on his Majesty the next Tuesday, about one of the clock, and went straight thence to wait upon their Royal Highnesses. The Archbishop of York did the like, declaring it in both places. The Archbishop of Canterbury is complained of, by both sides. The King, as said, told [him] he might be an honest man, but he bowed too much. The Court is extremely displeased with the Speaker. Mr. Pulteney went on Thursday to the country, in order to marry the eldest of the three Titchbornes. There are many malicious stories talked of the Earl of Sunderland, of scandalous law actions thereupon, but with what ground time will show for many reports are found afterwards to be false. It is much talked that the King will go in March beyond sea. It is believed Mr. Craggs, junior, will be Secretary, in the room of Mr. Addison. Lord Cadogan has been ill, but is better. The Duke of Rutland's daughter, Lady Catharine, appears in the drawing-room, to the satisfaction of many. Great and pressing instances are made for bringing in a bill or bills, in favour of Dissenters, though they should be rejected. Some belonging to the Prince have been to see Leicester House and its conveniences, but not in his name.

Mr. Al[exander] C[unningham] humbly and earnestly desires your Lordship to send, or bring to town "Horace" of 1477, printed by Lavagnia, and "Justinian's Institutes" of the first edition. There is a very curious collection of books coming from Italy, and such as will tempt Devon[shire], Sunderland, &c.

Lord Gore is to leave Leicester House and Mr. Portman Seymour offered to sell his adjoining to it to Lord Holderness, so the Prince may have it too.

NEWS LETTER.

[1717,] December 31. Tuesday—The news of the Head of Exeter College, his marriage, though writ from Oxford by a credible hand, is contradicted by some. Old Vincent of Cornwall, who was formerly of the Victualling Office, to whom his son succeeded, is dead of an apoplexy in town. When the King supped last week with the Comptroller Boscawen, there was no Englishman, and only his Majesty, a Hanoverian, a favourite of the King's, Abbot du Bois, with the Duchesses of Munster and Kent, and Mrs. Dunch, sister to Mr. Boscawen.

There is a pamphlet by the Dean of Canterbury in the press against Bishop Bangor, relating to the Convocation, and another twelve pence job of the Dean of Chichester, Sherlock against the said Bishop, relating to what the Bishop says about oaths and the Sacramental Test in his last book. The Dean reserves what he has to say further to another occasion.

It is confirmed that the Archbishop of York waited on their Royal Highnesses, since he had the King's message. It is said by some, the

Bishop of Bristol has waited on them. It is believed that the Archbishop of Canterbury has or will wait on them. The Archbishop of Canterbury uses to summons the Bishops and Clergy to wait on him at Court on solemn occasions, but this forenoon, some of the Bishops had not had any summons, whether others have had or not will appear tomorrow, which will be as some say a day of trial. Some say the Duke of Shrewsbury and Lord Harcourt have been to wait on them, but this needs confirmation, though more believe it of the former. It is generally believed the Church Bills will be brought in after the meeting of the Houses. There is a copy of verses in imitation of Horace's Epode ad Menam libertum, which some apply to Lord Cadogan. Colonel Cathcart, one of the grooms of the Prince's Bed-chamber, has sold his regiment to Ottway, Lieutenant Colonel to Pitt.

The Emperor made great demands of arrears due from England to him, but has accepted, as said, of 144.000*l.* in full of demands, and with the condition that he shall suffer neither the Pretender nor any of his adherents to shelter themselves in any of his dominions, and the foresaid sum was paid, as they say, yesterday, here to the Imperial Agent. The Pamphlet called "Defection considered, or the designs of those who divided the friends of the Government, set in a true light," is much bought up, and is severe against Walpole, &c. They talk of a letter from Shippen to Walpole, to invite him to the Tower.

HEN[RY] CAREY to the [EARL OF OXFORD].

1717-18 [*Endorsed*].—Upon the 2nd of June, 1717 last ["It was Sunday the seventh of July, 1717" *written in margin by Lord Oxford*], when your Lordship came to the chapel at Lincoln's Inn, it being the last Sunday in Trinity term, and the first after your late signal deliverance from the hands of your enemies, I being at that time clerk of the said chapel, set the 124th Psalm, as it is in the new version of Tate and Brady; but immediately after sermon, before I had well got out of the chapel, many of the Seniors of the Inn gathered about me and asked me many questions, altogether frivolous, ill-natured, and ensnaring. Amongst the rest, Mr. Handcock distinguished himself in a more particular manner, by asking me with some austerity, whether your Lordship was not my dictator; to whom I made answer (as it was true) that what I did was spontaneous, and of my own real motion, that neither your Lordship, nor any other person prompted me to it, or knew anything of it beforehand. I was so pestered with the stale empty jests and pretended witticisms of the Benchers that I withdrew to avoid their clamour and reproaches. The Wednesday following (being the Council night) Sir Joseph Jekyll, Mr. Spencer Cowper, and Mr. Carter, then Treasurer and Chairman, began most violently and bitterly to inveigh against me, and to lay my setting that Psalm before the Bench as an offence of the highest nature, aggravating their charge with so much heat and vehemence that the Hon. John Hungerford, Esquire, and some other worthy gentlemen then present could scarce have room to put in one word on my behalf, so loudly did these inquisitor like censurers thunder out their anathemas against me, and being much superior in number to the good few who took my part, and would defend me, they passed a vote for my immediate discharge. The next morning, one of the servants of the Inn came to acquaint me that

they had no further service for me, but that they had dismissed me from my clerkship for being a person disaffected to the Government; whereupon some few days after I found myself published in the several newspapers, both foreign and domestic, so that my singing a Psalm in a private chapel soon echoed through the four quarters of Europe, which rather made me laugh at the little endeavours of these men to disgrace me.

Thus was I dismissed from an office I had enjoyed for some years.

I was at the same time keeper of the library in the Middle Temple, under John Troughton, Esquire, where I employed myself in regulating and reducing to decency and order a place which through long neglect was become a perfect chaos of paper, and a wilderness of books which were mixed and misplaced to such a degree that it was next to an impossibility to find out any particular book without tumbling over the whole. This undertaking cost me above twelve months' hard labour and pains, besides money out of my own pocket to transcribers. However, I went forward with the greater alacrity, because Mr. Ludlow, then Treasurer, encouraged me by repeated promises (which now I may call specious and empty) of reward when completed as now it is, I having made a new catalogue in five alphabets with columns (all of my own invention), of all the tracts contained in the library, which catalogue is 100 sheets in folio, and the books are now so regularly ranged and the catalogue so plain, easy, and exact, that anybody may go directly from it to any required book or pamphlet without any difficulty or hesitation; so that not only the catalogue, but even the library itself are evident demonstrations of my labour and instances of their ingratitude to me who egged me on to this work without rewarding me for it.

Not long since it happened that the place of sub-clerk in the Temple Church became vacant, and Mr. Silvester, the chief clerk (my friend and acquaintance) appointed me his deputy therein, whereupon I began to officiate on Sunday, the 24th of November last. After sermon the Benchers openly rebuked Mr. Silvester for employing such a disaffected person, as they styled me, upon which he was constrained to discharge me.

Now I am without all manner of employment, or hopes of obtaining any wherever the malice or power of these men can reach me, notwithstanding, I am desirous of doing anything that is honest to support myself and my charge.

All which true narrative of the treatment and hardships put upon me I have here most humbly submitted to your Lordship's consummate wisdom and most judicious consideration, and most humbly crave leave to subscribe myself, &c.

Endorsed by Lord Oxford—"Mr. Henry Carey of Lincoln's Inn, 1717-18."

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood, near Presteign.

1717-18, January 26. [Christ Church, Oxford].—Last week the King referred it to the opinion of the twelve judges, whether it was not in his power to educate Prince Frederick and the rest of the children, and to place servants about them, and whether they might not all be entirely under his command. Nine of the judges gave their opinion that he might have the education of the children, &c. The other three that were against it were. Price, Tracy, and Eyre, the Prince's chancellor.

The old gentleman says he will go with the young man as far as the law will allow him, if he stops there, it will be well for him. The Prince is every day at the House, bows very low to those whom, not half a year ago, he expressed an utter abhorrence of. Cadogan made his Highness three or four low bows of which he took no manner of notice.

There is a talk again of the Duchess of M———being declared Q[ueen]. The Tories have carried a question about the half-pay officers against the Court, by a majority of 38. The Bills against the Church are now, they say, entirely laid aside. The Bishops that were at the Conference with the Dissenters were Salisbury, Norwich, Worcester, and Bangor. They offered them to have the Occasional and Schism Bill and Test Act to be repealed; and as to Ecclesiasticals that they should come into livings not exceeding 50*l.* a year, which they were too proud to accept of, and happy it is that they were so. They talk now that Craggs is to be Secretary of State, and Macartney, Secretary of War.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1717-18, February 4. Christ Church, Oxford—The Duke of Shrewsbury died on Saturday, between one and two. The title of Earl, and the best part of the estate is gone to a Roman Catholic. There was a Bill brought into the House for dispensing with the oaths that the person to be elected Governor of the South Sea is obliged to take; the King came yesterday to the House to pass it. The same day George Caswall carried from the Directors an address to the King to desire that his Majesty would accept of the Governor's place, for which George was dubbed. To-morrow is to be the great struggle in the House of Commons, whether the army is to be under the military or the civil government; no other news stirring.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1717-18, February 6. Christ Church, Oxford—I fancy you have hitherto found my news to be pretty true, considering how many second handed lies we have from London, which have been stale in every coffee-house there for a week before. I shall (as to my intelligence) find a great loss in Mr. Thomas, who goes to London on Monday, but he has promised me to let me hear from him, and to send me all the news that is stirring, which I will be sure to communicate, though I believe there will not be much when this session is over, which they talk will be in a month's time or less. The Court were hard pushed on Tuesday, there were between four and five hundred members present, and they carried their point but by 18. Walpole spoke very warmly against them, as did Mr. Jeffreys, for them Mr. Lechmere, Craggs, and Sir Humphrey Polesworth, the last noble Colonel, I fancy, has something more than half-pay. If the members can be persuaded to stay in town and keep together, it is thought the Court will not venture to bring in their terrible Bills this session. The 'prentice boy that you read of in the papers, who had a design to kill the King, is a lunatic, he is nephew to Dr. Henchman. The King's people and Sir George Caswall's have lost it for sub- and deputy-governors of the South Sea, and those that are reckoned of the Prince's party have carried it, Bateman, &c. It is not known but that the knight will lose his director's place. I am sorry Coningsby's title is settled on his daughter, or else Caswall might have it when his Lordship tips off.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1717-18, February 13. Christ Church, Oxford.—Sir James Bateman and the Prince's Whigs got an entire victory over Caswall and the rest who has lost his directorship. Glanvil of the Treasury, who was reckoned a professed atheist, has left the Bishop of Bangor 20*l.* for his great love to mankind in endeavouring to free them from the tyranny and oppression of the church; these I think are the words of the will. Lord Essex is to marry Lady Jane Hyde.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1717-18, February 18. Christ Church, Oxford—There has been lately a very strong report that the Chancellor will certainly lay down, and that Lechmere is to be made a lord, in order to qualify him to take the other's place; some say King is to be Chancellor, others Parker. The Mutiny Bill came on in the House of Lords last Tuesday, when several papers were called for, some of which were the accounts of what officers had been turned out, and what officers had sold, for how much, and who came in their places since the King came. Lord Trevor and the Duke of Argyll opened the debate very handsomely and very well. Sunderland answered Argyll, and reflected on him for voting one session, that the peace was safe and honourable, and the next, that it was a disadvantageous one. Several warm words passed between them, and so the debate was adjourned till that day se'nnight, when a tight battle is expected. The new knight has (to my great joy) been found out to have exported and melted down the coin, for which it is to be hoped he will be made to pay sauce. A debate in one of the Courts began upon the matter, but was adjourned for fourteen days. Mr. Bromley lies very ill at Kensington.

NEWS LETTER.

[1718, February 19]. Wednesday night—The enclosed *(missing)* is supposed to be done by Dr. Swift, and it came from Dublin with a letter writ with the Archbishop of Dublin's own hand, giving an exact account of all which passed in both Houses, relating to establishing a bank in Ireland, with his Grace's opinion about it before and after it came before the Houses. I have the original and your Lordship may have a copy if worth your curiosity. Dr. Swift's remarks and queries are in print, but no printed copies are to be had here.

Your Lordship having the minutes of the Houses here, you need not search account of what is transacted in either House here. The Duke of Wharton has changed his side. He was hitherto extremely zealous and violent, and made many of the motions of the party, but yesterday morning he did not come to the meeting as usual, before they went to the House, and both yesterday and to-day did not divide with, but against his former party. Yesterday, on the debate about the causes of the great navy debt, Lords Trevor, Cowper, and Bishop of Rochester spoke most and best on one side, Sunderland, Townshend, and Carteret on the other.

This day the Sheriffs of London presented a petition in the name of the City of London, to be heard by Counsel, before the Plague Bill was passed, with regard to some clauses, &c., but after many, and long

speeches, it was rejected. Sunderland insisted that it would be a bad precedent, and that Uxbridge, Brentford, and other Corporations might pretend to do the same, adding that there was nothing of property in the case, &c. It was answered that both liberty and property were concerned, &c. Trevor and Cowper spoke again and again, when Mr. Foley's appeal about the nomination of a parish curate was before the House. Trevor took into pieces the decree of the Master of Rolls which was confirmed and enlarged by the Lord Chancellor giving it to the parish. Harcourt seconded him. The Lord Chancellor rose from the Woolpack *(sic)*, and defended the decree, upon which Cowper rose and answered him. Then the House began to cry reverse, reverse; the Chancellor offering to speak again, Harcourt said it was strange that he would continue to defend a shameful decree even against the House, &c. Trevor spoke against reading the Mutiny Bill, moved for a day to consider it, and was seconded. Sunderland, Townshend, and Carteret were not come. Harcourt said it must be read, and therefore was for giving it a first reading. North and Grey answered that he should not prejudge the House, and he could not know but the House might reject it, and then the three ministers coming in together pressed for a first reading of it that day, and leaving them to appoint a day for the second reading. Trevor said many things warmly against a standing army and martial discipline, and that if continued now might with as great reason be continued for ever. North and Grey said that the army continued three years in King William's reign, without the law against mutiny and desertion, &c. The country party think they have reason on their side, and that the other have only numbers. Lord Sunderland speaks short but first, and when he gives the hint all his party takes it. Townshend speaks warmly, and sometimes makes an apology for it. The Bishop of Rochester spoke long and well yesterday. One day, upon the refusing to address for laying before the House the instructions and treaties, &c., the Bishop of Rochester, amongst other things, said it was the saddest day he had ever seen.

Walpole, upon a fit of gout and gravel was feverish and blistered, but recovered; he is now again relapsed and blistered. Some say he has somewhat of a palsy, at least a great benumbness of some parts. The House of Commons are at a great loss by his illness. The Directors of the South Sea were to wait on him on Monday. He designed to have been in the House this day, and they being to go on Ways and Means, he hoped to have influenced the Committee to the giving the two millions due by the Company to the Government to the Company, in order to gain the general Court which is to meet to-morrow to accept of the ingraftment into the Bank, which is his favourite project, but there is an universal aversion to it in the City houses and everywhere. It is the firm persuasion of considerable persons that the Earl of Sunderland has no inclination for Walpole nor Walpole for his Lordship. The majority of the House of Peers was ordinarily of 60 or thereabouts to 22, but the last of 48 to 22. The Earl of Aberdeen divides always with the Country party. Trevor, all this Session, has divided with the Country party, and speaks often and well. Harcourt speaks seldom, but divides always with the Court. Argyll divides still with the Court but does not speak; Ilay both speaks and divides with the Court.

The expedition by a squadron under Admiral Wager is believed to be against Portugal, and occasions various speculations. It is thought the Parliament will continue longer than was once expected, may be

to the end of February. Coningsby has diverted the House often with reflections on Mr. Law, and sometimes on the Lord Chancellor. Lord Cowper said he should have more regard to the Chancellor, because he might perhaps come some time under his direction. Mr. de Witt, grandson to the great de Witt, has retired to Flanders, married a lady of quality and fortune, and abjured the Protestant Religion, declaring himself Roman Catholic.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1717-18, February 27. [Christ Church, Oxford]—Lord O[xford] spoke very boldly, clearly, and easily, was answered by Stanhope, who cast several reflections on him, which my Lord did not think proper then to answer, though he is resolved not to be silent, if they touch upon any of those points. They carried the Bill by fourteen, so although we are beaten, the conquerors have not much to brag of. The Lords have entered their protest against the Bill. The Bishop of Winchester and Townshend were amongst the protesters. Some of the Court's Lords said they were for making several alterations in the Bill, but dare not trust it in the House of Commons again. Lord Abingdon has lost his son by the small-pox. Mr. Bromley continues very ill; Dr. Freind, his physician, says he is out of danger. I hope it is true, he will be a very great loss. It is talked that Londonderry is dying, and that Bangor will be sent to Ireland, I hope if he has any thoughts of it he will not stay to take Durham in his way.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1717-18, March 4. Christ Church, Oxford—All that I hear is that the Parliament will rise next week for certain. The King, they say, is resolved to go to Hanover, which I believe will make no small bustle among the great ones, who will be nebused *(sic)* what to do with the P[rince]. The Commons are very angry at Sir Lewen, the present Lord Mayor, who has suppressed the Mughouses, and threatens to send the landlord of the 'Roebuck' to Newgate, if he suffers any disorders in his house. The Lord Mayor has desired the Bishop of Rochester, Dr. Sherlock, and Dr. Snape to preach the Spitalfields sermons.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1717-18, March 9. Christ Church, Oxford—It is talked that the House will rise this week, the sooner the better, for every Bill that they bring into the House, they carry, though it is but by a small majority. The Bill of Forfeited Estates was lost but by eleven or twelve, this last week, when they carried another for rebuilding St. Giles's church, instead of one of the fifty new ones. This was brought in by the Duke of Newcastle, and it is thought that this Bill's passing will be a great means of frustrating the good design of building new churches, for several old ones will now desire the same favour with as much right, and a better pretence than St. Giles's. The Bishop of Chester spoke very warmly and very well against it; two of the Commissioners, Salisbury and Gloucester, were for it, as was Exeter. When they came to

mention the Bill, that it was enacted in the year of Queen Anne, the House divided, whether they should add the words "of pious and ever blessed memory," and they carried it that they should be left out.

Three soldiers have killed a gentleman in London streets since the Mutiny Bill passed.

I hear the Regent of France has openly told the Spanish Ambassador that he will assist his master with forces by sea and land, so that if we take the Emperor's part, as it is thought we are to do, a war is unavoidable.

It is said Sunderland is to be Treasurer, but this report is not to be depended upon. The King is resolved to go to Hanover. There was a talk last week in London, that the Habeas Corpus was to be suspended, and the power to be placed in those persons' hands that the King should think fit to make Regents. This they said was to secure the peace of the Kingdom, for since the King would not leave the Prince Regent, the plea was to prevent the Prince's dependents making a disturbance. I believe there is nothing in it.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1717-18, March 18. [Christ Church, Oxford.]—The King sent a message yesterday, to the House of Commons, to let them know that he should want more money and more men at sea, to which an address of thanks was voted to his Majesty for his vigilance and great care of this nation, and that they would, the beginning of next session, give him what money or men he should think fit. 8,000 sailors are to be pressed. A war with Spain is very warmly talked of. Stocks fall every day upon this report. The Spanish Envoy delivered in last week a memorial to the King. Smith has refused to be Treasurer of the Navy, so Hampden has the place. General Erle is out of everything, but some say has a pension settled on him. Cowper is to be made an Earl, Earl of Royston.

Pallioti was executed Monday morning between six and seven, he took no notice of anyone, and was turned off in a few minutes after he came from the gallows; a great mob attended him. The other malefactors died between eleven and twelve. Shepheard was drawn on a sledge, looked up all the way, seemed to be very calm and composed, and not in the least disturbed or daunted; I have not yet heard what he said at the gallows. I hear a book is coming out to justify him according to the Bishop of Bangor's notion, being he died sincerely. Bangor does not go to Londonderry. The House of Commons will not be up till Thursday or Friday. To-day, the Septennial takes place. Several members are resolved not to attend.

W. [TALBOT,] BISHOP OF SALISBURY, Chancellor of the Garter, to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1718, March 29. Golden Square—His Majesty has commanded me to summon a chapter of the most noble Order of the Garter, to meet at St. James's on Monday next, the 31st inst. at one o'clock in the afternoon, exactly. Of this I give your Lordship notice that you may attend on the Sovereign of the Order in your mantle only.

The Earl of Oxford, to the Bishop of Salisbury.

1718, March 30—When I came home this night, I found your Lordship's summons. My absence should not be interpreted to want of duty, for on July 2 last, I received his Majesty's written order not to come into his presence nor to Court. This order I take to be a sort of suspension of my duty upon such occasions as this, and I doubt not of your justice to set my absence in a due light. *Draft.*

[*In the margin, Lord Oxford has written the names of the then existing Knights of the Garter.*]

Edward Harley, junior, to Abigail Harley, at Eywood.

1718, April 1. Christ Church, Oxford—There is a report that the Duke of Marlborough is very ill, and that he will resign all his places to Cadogan, before Cadogan goes to Holland. When the Oath of Allegiance was tendered to Aspinwall as sub-dean of the Chapel, the words "To his heirs and their issue" were left out. I suppose you took notice in the Saturday's Post' of March 22, of the story of the Czarowitz, taken from the Gazette.

The Bishop of Durham has made Dr. Dolben, since his being turned out, a prebend of Durham, worth 300*l.* a year. Bangor has published another book against Sherlock about his calumny, wherein he highly compliments the Bishop of Rochester. It is not certain whether the King goes to Hanover or stays.

Dr. Richard Mead, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1718, April 3. Bloomsbury—Asking his Lordship's vote for the bearer, Mr. Markham, to be apothecary to the Charterhouse.

Edward Harley, junior, to Abigail Harley, at Eywood.

1718, April 13. Christ Church, Oxford—We have no news stirring amongst us, but one piece which very much terrifies us, and that is that we are to have in a very short time one or two regiments of soldiers quartered upon us. What mischief they may do no one knows, being to be called to an account for whatever they do by none but the commanders. I hear Mr. Jeffreys has lost his lady, a loss, I fancy, easily to be remedied. The K[ing] has sent word to my Lord Grantham, that if he lends or sells the Duke of Ormond's house at Richmond to the P[rince], he will seize it, as being forfeited to the Crown. He has likewise forbid the players letting them come to the play-house. You see how very near a happy reconciliation is like to be. All the persons that ever Walpole and his party put into place are going to be turned out, and some say that the Ministry are resolved to impeach W[alpole] as soon as the Parliament meets. If you have not seen the speeches against continuing the Army, before my father goes into the country, I will send them to you then.

Edward Harley, junior, to Abigail Harley.

1718, May 4. Christ Church, Oxford—The story you mention in one of the prints are two stories jumbled into one, which very unjustly

reflects on Mr. Hubland, for he was not in the company when those blasphemous words were spoken, which was five days or more before he died, and I am sorry to tell you that Lord B[rooke] was the profane wretch, he lost at this last cock match, I am told, between five and six hundred pounds. It is not yet settled who is to have the Chancellor's place. Sometimes Parker is talked of, other times Vernon and others, yet I cannot think Lechmere will suffer anyone to have the seals, besides his dear self. Any persons that are turned out of doors at St. J[ames's] are sure to find entertainment in Leicester Fields, so that the happy reconciliation is as near as ever.

A terrible fire happened at Headington, a little town within a mile of us, on Thursday, which begun about four in the afternoon, and by six had burnt down between twenty and thirty houses; several poor creatures have lost all they had in the world.

Edward Harley, junior, to Abigail Harley.

1718, May 6. [Christ Church, Oxford.]—Parker is to be Chancellor and some job to be done, for Lechmere would not take the seals unless they would give him besides six and thirty thousand pounds; the other took them and thirty. Pratt is talked of for Chief Justice. The P[rince], not long ago, bespoke at the Old Playhouse, a play called the Indian Emperor. The K[ing] hearing of it, sent to the players to tell them that if the P[rince] came, and they acted that play, he would turn them out of his service, which message they sent to the P[rince], who had the good sense not to come, so the Indian Emperor was acted. Queen Dowager is certainly dead.

H. Winnington to his Uncle [the Earl of Oxford].

1718, May [12-]23, N.S. Vienna—I have endeavoured in my travels to find something curious, and of your Lordship's *goût*. There is a description of Languedoc, written by Mr. Bavil, with another little book of the Canal, which Mr. Gay will remit into your hands. I am got now as far as Vienna, so consequently cannot help talking of the war with the Turks, the preparations for which are very great on the Emperor's side, although the peace is looked upon as almost certain; but the conditions are kept very secret. Prince Eugene sets out for the army in five or six days, and will be at the head of 100,000 men; the design is to follow the Danube, that is, to march directly forwards to Wallachia, seize upon that country, and then exchange it with the Turks for Bosnia.

Dr. Jonathan Swift to Lord Harley, at Bath.

1718, May 17, Dublin—I had the honor and favour of a very kind letter from your Lordship of the 24th of April, which has given me the only pleasure I ever received since I left you in Oxford. To be remembered in so friendly a manner, and after so long an absence, by that person of the world for whom I have the greatest love and esteem, is a happiness which no mortification of life can hinder me from relishing. Yet perhaps it is but justice, that persons like you, who are in the years of good nature, should now and then condescend to comfort us, who are arriving to the age of sourness and morosity; not that I would have your Lordship think this any way concerns me, for my servants tell all our neighbourhood that I grow gentler every day, and am content only

to call my footman a fool, for that which when he knew me first I would have broke his head. But this is to be able to give a good answer to Horace's question, *Levior ac melior fis accedente senectâ?*

Your Lordship and my Lady Harriette have given me more disquiet for some days past, than I care to reproach you with. I have sent five or six orders and counter orders about a safe conveyance for my étui and snuff box, and shall have no peace of mind till I feel them in my pockets, and I think in conscience your family ought to give me some annuity for repairing my pockets worn out in carrying your presents. There is my Lord Oxford's table book, my Lady Harriette's former snuff box (of melancholy memory), besides these new acquisitions. I say nothing of two drawings, one of them Lady Dupplin's handiwork, which I am assured will in some years put me to the charge of new painting the panel against which they hang.

I was told that my Lord Oxford intended to write to me before he went to Herefordshire; I always thought I had some business with him if he got there, and resolved to pay him a visit, but he has delayed or forgot it; or altered his resolutions of going.

I have sent Mr. Prior all the money which this hedge country would afford, which for want of a better solicitor is under 200*l.* I believe he is the first person in any Christian country that ever was suffered to starve after having been in so many great employments. But among the Turks and Chineses it is a very frequent case, and those are the properest precedents for us at this time.

My Lord Primate of Ireland is with you at the Bath. He is a very worthy gentleman, hath great obligations to my Lord Oxford, and I hope your Lordship lets him visit you.

I desire you will present my most humble respects to my sister Henriette, and tell her I have something by me, that I value more than a thousand of her étuis, but which I dare not trust to my pocket. It is a letter directed to brother Swift, after which I could do no less than own her for a sister, and as Captain Luellin *(sic)* told Harry the Fifth, I am not ashamed of her, since she is an honest woman.

I pray God continue health and happiness to you both, for the sake of your friends and country, as well as your own, and in the meantime I expect the justice to be ever believed your Lordship's most obedient and most obliged humble servant and brother.

FRANCIS, BISHOP OF CHESTER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1718,] May 25. Christ Church, Oxford—On Friday last, we all returned in good health to this place, and Dr. Map goes abroad as he used to do. I had a very dull time of it in town. I hope I shall never be there again when your Lordship is not. Great justice was done to the Southsea project, as it was first termed in our house; but whether what is new built upon that foundation will meet with the same approbation some years hence I very much doubt. What the premier director of Westminster School has done lately; how he removed the election into Jerusalem Chamber; put down the election dinner; ordered that no mention should be made of Bishop Smalridge in the speeches or verses, &c., I presume your Lordship has heard, since nothing but the Southsea has been more talked of in all parts of the town. The cause about the chamber will be heard in a week's time. I was to compliment the late Attorney after his being out; I wish I may find better

usage from the present. I have been served with a *Quare impedit* in the affair of Manchester College, but there being some dispute at Lancaster Assizes about the regularity of the summons Mr. Justice Dormer took time till Thursday next to decide that knotty point.

Notes in Somersetshire.

1718, June 9 and 10—Notes in Lord Harley's hand-writing.

June 9, 1718—To Wells, fifteen miles from the Bath, in the afternoon to see Glastonbury, the ruins of a noble structure, the kitchen still remains, built of stone and no timber used, the form of it is octangular. The walls that remain of the monastery are every day lessened, there is a house built out of the stone by a Quaker, who has taken the ornaments which he could find, and adorned his own house. The estate belongs to the Duke of Devonshire.

The famous thorn I saw which blossoms it is said every Christmas day, but it does not hold always; it is different from other thorns, for it has not those sharp points. They tell a story of Joseph of Arimathea landing near that place, and show where he was buried. About half a mile from Glastonbury is a high hill where there was a church, now the tower only remains, it commands the country for several miles round.

June 10—Went to Cheddar, six miles from Wells, famous for cheese but more so for the vast cliffs. I rode through them, they seem to have been divided by an earthquake, because one side seems to tally with the other. These join to Mendip hills, which range above thirty miles, there are mines of lead and coal. On one side there two miles from Wells is a mighty subterraneous cavern called 'Wokies Hole,' it is three hundred and ten yards in length, in some places narrow and low, the further part is a very large room, one hundred feet from side to side. About the middle is a basin, which it is said, is never lower or higher. The water which drops from the rocks petrifies. There are fine trout taken in the stream which comes from the Hole. October 29, 1677, a trout was taken near the Hole, the length 3 ft. 9 in., depth 9¾ inches, weight 24 lbs., painted in the Bishop's palace at Wells, in full dimensions, with these lines:—

Near Littley Bridge was taken up this trout,
And there unto this largeness grew no doubt,
Or in the caverns of Wookey's dismal Hole,
In crystal streams did range without control.

Dr. John Covel to Lord Harley, at Wimpole.

1718, August 17. Christ's College [Cambridge]—This bearer, Mr. Webster, one of our Cambridge booksellers, has lighted on a very good library, now to be sold. He brought me the catalogue of it, and I could not forbear giving you this trouble of recommending it to your perusal, for no man shall be more ready or industrious to assist or promote your most noble and magnificent design of building and furnishing a Vatican at Wimpole than my poor self.

News Letter.

[1718,] October 8. Wednesday—Your Lordship having every post-day all the newspapers sent to you and others in town, writing to you

the anecdotes made me forbear the troubling you with anything of the republic of intelligence and news, but if when your friends and better relators have come to you or left the city, I shall be willing to write to you the supplemental news and town tattle which are not in the prints, if you be pleased to lay your commands on me, and order your porter to call on me for a letter on the days your carrier is to leave London, that he may deliver to the carrier.

The Parliament will sit, and proceed to business immediately at the time appointed. The Court designs a short session, and to bring it to an end in February, it being firmly resolved that his Majesty will go to Hanover in March. Notwithstanding, it has been much talked that there was a great misunderstanding among the Ministers, and on Saturday last it was said that Earl Stanhope was to resign that day, yet nothing happened; and at Court there appears no ground for the report, for Lord Stanhope lies in Earl Sunderland's lodging, his own apartment not being in order, and he not only dines often at Sunderland's table, having not yet kept one himself, but he is constantly with him when he plays at chess, and they seem to be in great friendship. However, the town talks otherwise. Some say that Stanhope is to go to Ireland, others say, but few, that Sunderland is to go thither, which is highly improbable. Some say that Sunderland opposes Stanhope's being created Duke of Northumberland, and that Stanhope opposes Sunderland's being Lord High Treasurer, but both these stories may be groundless. Earl Stanhope is expected from Bath at Hampton Court on Saturday. An express came to Sunderland on Sunday last, when he was at dinner, of his lady's condition, being in travail, and as soon as dinner was over he went to London, and arrived about an hour before she was brought to bed of a son.

The Court is greatly pleased with the Earl of Stair's conduct and negotiations, and with his letters of business; but it is like they are not so well satisfied with his expenses, for he makes them pay well for all his services. They say his charges amount annually to 40,000*l.* or thereabouts.

Some say there are attempts to make a reconciliation in the Royal Family, but few believe it, and there is no appearance yet of it. When the new edition of Boileau in folio, which is dedicated to her Royal Highness, was presented to her by Cost, the author of the dedication, she asked him how they ventured to dedicate it to her, who is in so great disgrace.

News Letter.

[1718,] October 9. Thursday—It is said by those who frequent the Court that the Session of Parliament will be short, that the Ministers will press the despatch of public business, and that the Parliament will be up in February, and that the King will go to Hanover in March, and that there will be a Regency in his absence. Many believe that the Ministers are embarrassed, but others think they are very sanguine, and doubt not of carrying all easily in Parliament, and expect that Spain will come in, or at least not be in a condition to hold out long.

The Marquis of Monte Leone had not gone to Court since the defeat of his master's fleet, till the end of last week. Upon Thursday he had received letters recalling him, and on Friday he went to Hampton Court and waited on the Earls Sunderland, Stanhope and Mr. Secretary

Craggs, to whom he notified his orders which were for his leaving England, being unnecessary and useless at this Court after what had happened. The Marquis told the three ministers, who were together, that he was not prohibited to take his audience of leave, and it being in his choice, he would go away with all the *bonne grace* he could, and so have an audience of *congé* before he departed. The Marquis says that the Court of Madrid has left it entirely to the Colonel Stanhope, the British Envoy there, to stay or come away, but in case of his not retiring from that Court he is assured of enjoying all the franchises due to his character during his being at that Court. The fate of Messina, and the issue of the conferences and treaties in the north, and a little more time and incidents will clear matters more.

The Duke Regent as said, gives himself with great application every day, eight hours to public business, and the rest to necessity and pleasure. The French epigram says that if he lose his eyes he will be another Œdipus to be led about by his daughter, with the difference that it is not in the Regent's case the son with the mother, but the father with the daughter. There is one line after the epigram very severe which says that the Regent Philip is not Œdipus, because he knows his own guilt and relation, whereas Œdipus was ignorant of it. There is another lampoon on the Regent, which says that Louis 13th lived so long and died at such a time. Louis 14th lived so long, and died of such an age, but that Louis 15th was to live, and die whensoever the Regent pleased he should die. The Regent is most generally hated and evil spoken of, even by the officers of the Army, and, as said, by his own domestics.

There is a new voyage by a Dutchman of many years and countries in French of 3*l.* price, with many cuts very particular about Persepolis; the traveller a painter. It is dedicated to Madame Kilmansegg at this Court. There are only 12 copies in folio on royal paper of Mortier's Edition of Boileau, one of them was given to Sir Andrew Fountaine, another to the Princess of Wales, with her picture before it. Both the dedication and picture make her a great beauty. The Princess gave to Mr. Cost a medal worth 22*l.* The price of the two volumes is 7*l.*, the binding cost 8*l.* Mortier and Cost had no more but the medal. Cost presented it in Mortier's name.

News Letter.

[1718,] October 10. Friday—The French mail arrived this forenoon brings no fresh or remarkable advices. In the prints it was said that the express, which on Monday came here from Admiral Byng brought advice that the citadel of Messina did still hold out on the 26th September inst., but some from Hampton Court wrote that the letters come with that courier were of the 25th from Reggio, and of the 30th from Naples, and that it was resolved not to come to an extremity, but rather to save the garrison. Some say the Viceroy of Naples was to send no more succours to Messina, but to transport German troops to Melazzo, and to have a camp there of 15,000 men.

Earl Stanhope has received 5,000*l.* for the expense of his late negotiations and voyages. Some say that he is not very well satisfied, though there appears nothing of it in public. His lady at the Bath is very much troubled with vapours, and as some add in great disorder. Lord Bolingbroke is very gay, looks well, more plump than of old, is often

with the Earl of Stair, both in Paris, and at his country house, dining publicly with him.

It is said that the Court will drop the Mutiny Bill, and not desire the continuing it. Some think that they at Court, though they seem to be easy, yet are embarrassed. Monte Leone expects to have his present; he did not see the King Friday last, but dined with Sunderland. Some advices from the north mention Baron Gortz being in disgrace, and the Swedes having had a repulse, but as these are not very probable they need confirmation.

A gentleman coming from Hampton Court the other day had a fall from his horse and died. They say the Czar insists for the keeping Revel. Many believe that both the Czar and King of Sweden have had remittances of money from Spain. The "Daily Courant" of this day has éclaircissements and remarks on the memorial of Bevelti Lands which was published in yesterday's "Postboy."

It is said that the Duke of Ormond was lately either in Paris or near it, and some say that he is not very well with Mar, who is the great minister and favourite of the Pretender, and has got the better of the popish priests at present. The Duke Regent employs eight hours every day on public affairs, and the rest in pleasure. He has one only son, and four or five daughters whereof one is religious, and has taken the vows and habit, another is monstrously fat, like the Duchess of Berri. They say Mr. Phipps and Lady — Anglesey are very like one another, equally beautiful, and that they matched themselves. Sunderland dined lately at Carnarvon's in the country.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1718, November 1. Sandwell—I am not capable of more satisfaction than I had upon receiving the honour of your letter, being by the greatest obligations a sincere servant to your Lordship and yours. I have no thought of going to London at present, nor ever shall but with a view of serving my friends, which I take now to be out of the case; and for other affairs, a vote in the House of Lords can be of little consequence, but shall think mine much better placed if you will do me the honour to accept of my proxy. I have been lately at Brodsworth with Lord and Lady Dupplin.

NEWS LETTER.

[1718,] November 6. Thursday—On Tuesday Serjeant Whitaker made a motion in the King's Bench for a quo warranto against the Mayor and Corporation of Taunton, at the instance of an Attorney there, who had insulted the Mayor and declared that he was no Mayor; the motion surprised the Court. The Serjeant represented that not having taken the Declaration for announcing the Solemn League and Covenant, he had no title to act as Mayor, and that the Act enjoining it had never been repealed; for in the Act of King William appointing new oaths to be taken in lieu of the old ones recited in that Act, no mention was made of the Declaration against the obligation of the Covenant, and it being not expressly repealed

was still in force. The Chief Justice put off the consideration of it till Thursday, and, this day, upon the Mayor's counsels' desire, adjourned the hearing of it. But the Mayor of London did on Tuesday night summon all the Aldermen to wait on him before eight o'clock on Wednesday morning without acquainting the Common Council, and when they came he told them of the Taunton case, and he with them drew up an address or petition to the King, and this day presented it to his Majesty; and after they dined at St. James's. Many wonder at the precipitation of the Mayor, who did not wait till the judges and learned at law had given their opinion, and some suspect his foreknowledge of it, and as in all such cases, fancy there has been underhand practice and some secret design. The Charters of all the Corporations seem to be forfeited, and some think that it must be laid before the Parliament. This day the Committee of Council ordered Bentley to put his case in writing, and the Vice-Chancellor to do the same. It is said by some that the Mayor of London, when he took the oaths in the Exchequer, called for the Declaration about the Covenant; but this is not certain, a little time will give more light about it.

The Bishop of Bangor has somewhat in the press. Dr. Sherlock told him that ten sheets for what he owned as to authority would give more satisfaction than two hundred about what he did not own. It is like he will declare his positive sentiments now. Budgell, Addison's relation, came from Ireland hoping to get back again the post taken from him, he having had two; but instead of restoring him they took the other from him, which has occasioned appearing in print. Though he reflects on many he gives a great character and eulogy of the King, and besides other particulars mentions his brightness in conversation, and that the greatest wits would be vain to say what drops ordinarily from him, &c.

There is no ground for the report of 2,000 men or four regiments more, being to be disbanded. There are only now in Great Britain 12,400 of standing forces. The Earl of Berkshire is appointed Deputy Earl Marshal. Squire Bowyer was found drowned in a pond at Kensington. He had an estate of 1,500*l.* per annum, and is to be succeeded in it by Sir Henry Bowyer. They say he had projected a match with a very young gentlewoman, but could not agree about the settlement and some other conditions demanded by her, which occasioned discontent and melancholy. Sir John Stonhouse's sister some time since married her footman.

Alberoni, upon the news of a French army being sent to the frontiers of Spain, said that then they would get abundance of recruits. They say that 12,000 French officers are gone into Spain, and that upon the Regent's telling the Spanish Ambassador that many French were gone into Spain, he answered that there were more Spaniards in France than French in Spain. They advise from Paris that the Duke of Berwick excused himself from the command of the French troops towards the frontiers of Spain, because he was a Grandee, and had a revenue there of 5,000 livres a year. Many say that few French officers will fight against Spain. The Earl Stair sends very often to Bolingbroke to come from his country house and French mistress to consult upon the present juncture of affairs. The Commissioners of Excise have reduced the officers relating to the leather duty to 100 from 250.

They say the ministers here are very ill pleased with Chancellor Broderick, and they talk of Sir Richard Levin or ——— Gilbert, Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Ireland, being to be in his post. Mr. De la Faye has the grant of a reversion and Broderick refuses to pass it because it was a parliamentary commission. It is said that there are medals struck of gold, silver, and copper, on the Pretender's marriage, amongst his friends.

Bentenrieder has a journal of all that passed at Melazzo from the 8th of October, N.S., to the 16th. It says that on the 13th the Imperialists in that garrison resolved to make a sally on the 15th, which they did with one Piedmontese and nine German battalions and six squadrons. They drove the Spaniards and penetrated into their camp, but seven regiments of foot and two of horse came from Messina to the Spaniards, who then drove them back to the town. It adds that the Germans had 400 killed and 400 wounded, and one of their general officers taken prisoner by the Spaniards, and that they had taken 100 Spanish soldiers and a general officer, and that the Spaniards had many killed and as supposed 2,000. Bentenrieder says that the convoy which set sail from Genoa to Melazzo had been two days at sea, and by tempests driven back to it. The journal says that the Spaniards expected a great convoy with artillery from Messina.

Bothmar's son-in-law and daughter are returned to Dresden. She is his only child, and her husband, Reus, an immediate Count of the Empire, a Pietist who will not see masquerades nor plays. Bothmar's lady is still at Dresden. He and she have not lived together for ten years past.

At the Mayoral feast, where most of the Cabinet were, when the health was named for the prosperity of the City of London and its trade, the Sword Bearer being to proclaim it, by mistake said to the prosperity of the Church of England as established by law and its trade. Townshend is come to town. Sir William Wyndham came yesterday with a great train. When the Archbishop of Canterbury was minister of St. James's he published select psalms with tunes for the two Charity Schools in that parish. The Society for Charity Schools lately ordered a new impression for the benefit of other Charity Schools, which was printed not by their printer but by Brown who had the first copy, and some of them being sent to the country, a minister wrote to the Society that though the title was the same as of the first impression there were alterations, and particularly as to the Doxology; for whereas in Wake's edition it was as in the Liturgy, in this it was, Glory to the Father, through the Son, without mention of the Holy Ghost. The Society had not caused examine it, not doubting of its being the same with the first, but have now ordered to call in all the copies. They say those now used in St. James's Parish Schools are all of the later edition.

Walpole attended the Assizes in his county, and dined with the Judges, was upon the Bench, &c. The Roebuck Society design not to be wholly disappointed, but to have the procession of their figures on the 17th instant, Queen Elizabeth's birthday, if the Justices of Peace of Westminster do not prohibit them, as the supposed Mayor did in the city on the 5th. It is believed both Houses will be very full on Tuesday. Both the Court of Madrid and States General are impatient to know what the Parliament here will resolve on.

News Letter.

[1718, November —.] Friday morning—The King was resolved not to leave Hampton till Tuesday, but it is said yesterday that he will come to St. James's to-morrow. The Prince and Princess design to come to their house in Leicester Fields on Tuesday. The Green Cloth on Monday last entertained fifty-six at five tables at Hampton Court. There was a table for ladies and the Countess of Orkney did the honours at it. They had of late two plays and one ball every week at Court. The King says he never had his health better; he looks well and is cheerful. The Earl of Sunderland comes to town as this day for good and all. His table at Hampton Court was the most noble and delicate, as the foreign ministers say.

Bernsdorf's daughter is come hither with her husband of the same surname, he Bernsdorf has no son. Baron Schulemberg with the Duchess of Munster, his sisters and his niece is returned from drinking the waters beyond sea. The Earl of Nottingham and his son Lord Finch are in town, and as they say will leave it and return to the country, as soon as their hearing in the Chancery is over. The Empress mother Eleonora is suspected to have contributed to making of the match of her niece with the Chevalier. The Czar has had not only his colic but a tertian ague; he is gone from Petersburgh to Allowitz; he says he will be this winter at Moscow, and go next summer into Italy. The Counts of Perouse and Provana, ministers of the Duke of Savoy, have waited on the King and notified that their master is ready to accede into the Quadruple Alliance. By disbanding the 12 regiments, 4,000 men are broke wanting 80, and there remain on the establishment in Great Britain, now only 12,000. The Lady Stanhope is still at the Bath, and as said ill and in disorder. The Bishop Elect of Peterborough says that he has already laid out 1,100*l.* for the diocese, which few will believe. Daranda, two Milners, Ashton, son to Sir Willoughby Ashton, Steventon a banker and stockjobber, and Sir Randal Knipe, as many say have bankrupted. Some talk of others who are like to rub off, and speak of Caswell.

News Letter.

[1718, November]—The Court in Leicester Fields was on Thursday numerous and magnificent. There were illuminations, a ball and apartment. They say the guns in the park were drawn out, but an order was sent to forbid their being fired. Some in the Common Council of London moved that no train-bands should go out without the consent of the Alderman and officers of the Ward, and others met since, and Sir G. Heathcote being in the chair, resolved that an address should be made to his Majesty to represent the ill-consequences of the foresaid motion, and named a deputation to draw it up, but there has nothing further been done yet about it.

The Governor of Barbadoes having got the instructions of the Society for Propagating the Gospel from their agents in that island who manage what they have there from the late Colonel Codrington, and the building of their College does give them trouble, and refuses to return them upon pretence it seems of their mal-administration and mis-employing, &c. The agents sent an express to their principals here, upon which they assembled, and resolved to present a petition with a minute of the case

to the King and Council, which being drawn up was sent by their Secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury, their President, to have their seal, which is in his custody, appended to it, and to desire him to present it; but when he attended his Grace he refused to be concerned as to the presenting, and with difficulty ordered the seal to be put to it.

The next Assembly day many, both Clergy and Laics, members of that Society came much earlier than the ordinary hour, and put one of their friends in the chair, the Bishop of London, who in the absence of the Archbishop, is President, not being come, and they put the question, and carried it against making any address or petition to the King about that affair. The Bishop at last coming took the Chair, and resumed the matter in debate, and seeing Mr. Hungerford, he said that he observed one there whom he had not seen before, it being the first time of his being in that Assembly, desired he might be apprised of the matter, after which Mr. Hungerford spoke on the case, and Dr. Waley answered him, to whom he made a very severe reply, and then the question being put, it was carried by a great majority to present the petition; most of those who voted against it now voting for it. They after proposed that the Bishop of London should present it, but upon his remonstrating that the Archbishop being President and Member of Privy Council, and having interest and influence, he should be again desired to do it, deputies were appointed to wait on him for that effect, but he declined and gave reasons in writ, the chief of which was that he could not well be a plaintiff and judge, but would when it came before the Council support it. In the meeting following they appointed some members to wait on the Bishop of Norwich to get him to present it, but he refuses, and now they have ordered Mr. Jennings, Mr. Hungerford, Dr. King, and another to wait on a Secretary of State with their petition.

It is not known with any certainty whether the Princess Sobiesky is seized in Tyrol, or got safe into Italy. Some are very positive and assured that she is in Italy. The issue of the conferences in Aland is not known, but the common opinion is that the peace is concluded betwixt the Czar and King of Sweden, and that Prussia is like to come in to that alliance. The Court here and all parties do impatiently wait for the resolution of the Court of Madrid and of the States General with relation to the Quadruple Alliance.

They write from the Hague, November 7th, that the Marquis de Prie was obliged to go to Brussels immediately, but might return in some short time, but nothing then was finally concluded, either as to the Barrier or Quadruple. Dr. Brooks went in harvest to Paris to see a friend who was sick there, who died soon after his arrival and left him 6,000*l.*, and he, returning with a friend who had accompanied him, his friend sickened in the way, and coming up the river, died at Deptford, and he himself is dead, as Mist's "Saturday's Post" informs. Mr. Mist was found and taken into custody on Friday and examined on Saturday.

The Earl of Nottingham is still here on account of his lawsuit. Some say he declares he will return to the country as soon as it is over. They talk of disbanding four more regiments, two of dragoons and two of foot, to the number of about 2,000 men. The former twelve regiments amounted in men to 4,000, wanting 80.

Some say Abbot du Bois is to go to Rome about the constitution and appeals. The Earl Stanhope's lady is still at the Bath, and

much out of order. The ministers here seem to be very easy, and hope all will be very well. Some say that there happened at Glasgow on the Coronation day some quarrel between the military officers and some of that city burghers about drinking the health of the King and Prince. Argyll has many friends in that town, and the squadrony faction have likewise zealous partisans in it. There are not many Parliament Members arrived here yet, but are expected will be here next week.

News Letter.

[1718,] November 14, Friday—Both Houses continued to sit till after eight of the clock on Tuesday upon a debate on the words of the address of thanksgiving for the speech. The not seeing of the treaties and the words "entire satisfaction" were the grand subject. The discontented Whigs were the chief managers and speakers. In the House of Lords the Dukes of Devonshire and Argyll, the Viscount Townshend, Earls Oxford and Cowper, and Nottingham, Harcourt, North and Grey, and Bathurst. Oxford said he would rather have his tongue cut out than agree to it. Nottingham spoke to the great satisfaction of one side, and said very much against the expressions in the address and the late transactions. Ilay did not speak. Coningsby answered Nottingham. He proposed two branches, one relating to those against whom the treaties were, the other for whom. As to the former, he said they were against the Pope, Pretender, Emperor of Morocco, and Spain, &c., and he never came to the second branch. It was observed that he did not offer to speak a second time. The Duke of Montrose, in answering Cowper, put him in mind of what he had said last session, that when any debate was of this nature, he considered if he were the Pretender what he would be for or against, and desired him to put the same case now. Twelve bishops voted with the Court, the Archbishop of Canterbury being one, and five against it. The Prince went out before the division. It was carried for the Court by a majority of 14. The proxies were not made use of; the Court party had 24, the other 5. There were more of them, but not presented before the prayers. Lonsdale, though the Lord of the Bedchamber in waiting, did vote against the Court, as is said, as did Earl of Berkshire. Saye and Seal voted with the Court. The Duke of Somerset was absent, as also Earls Poulett, Dartmouth, Carmarthen, Foley, Dupplin, Mansel, &c. Some make speculations about the absence of these.

In the House of Commons Messrs. Freeman and Shippen spoke; but the chief managers against the Court were Walpole, Sir Joseph Jekyll, Lord Molesworth, &c. General Webb said he had forgot his Latin, having entered early into the army, and desired to see the treaties in English. Some, and among them Craggs, thought it a reflection on members to be ignorant of it, which gave occasion to Hungerford to say that the secretary had, by his translations, given proof of his knowledge, and also the honourable member who was sitting next him, by his Latin epitaph on his favourite dog, meaning Molesworth. Hungerford added, that if they continued later in the debate, he would send for his night-cap. Bromley was absent, and many others. Upon the division the Court party carried it by 60.

The Lord Cowper was on Sunday with the King at Court, and on Monday with the Prince. Among other town tales, they say, the Lady

Cowper being asked why her Lord left the Court, said that none could do business there with two madmen and a dragoon. In the House of Peers Sunderland managed for the Court with temper, and Stanhope with great warmth. Some say Bolingbroke is here, but many expect he will come soon. The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge seemed, as said, to be in some confusion when he appeared before the Council. The Earl of Cardigan, Bishop of Salisbury, Sir John Stanley, and the Duke of Shrewsbury's steward, executors to his Grace, are, as reported, like to get every one 4,000*l.*, there being 16,000*l.* remaining after all legacies, &c., paid, which, not being disposed of, will come to them.

It is believed this session will be very short, and business despatched quickly. The Ministry here seem not to be satisfied with Broderick, the Chancellor of Ireland. The husbands of Lord Wenman's sisters, in order to secure their spouses' fortunes, moved for a commission of lunacy, but the Lord Chancellor has turned the tables, as they say, upon them, by issuing out a commission of idiocy. Wenman's estate lies near Parker's, and if he or any other for him get the custodia, it will be no loss to his income, as some suspect. They say Auditors Harley and Foley were absent. Sir William Windham spoke upon something said. Sunderland and Stanhope declared that they were ready to justify all their conduct without screening themselves by, &c. Orford spoke plainly, and represented the consequences of the war, and the damage unavoidable to the English ships in that sea. Cadogan is to continue some time longer in Holland. Lord Carteret spoke. While Sunderland was with Orford, immediately before the meeting of the Parliament, Townshend came to wait on Orford, and that broke off their conversation, which was about the, etc. Lord Onslow, contrary to Dr. Mead's advice, went to the House of Peers on Tuesday, and was so ill as to be obliged to come away before the question, and immediately be cupped; the swelling in his throat broke at the time of his cupping.

News Letter.

[1718,] November 18, Thursday—Among the Lords who have protested are Carleton, Ilay, Bruce, Orrery, Guilford, Ashburnham, &c. They say Lord Cowper has not protested. Bromley is not come to town, but it is said Sir Thomas Hanmer has taken a lodging for him at Kensington. There has been neither debate nor division in the House of Commons since the first day. It is talked that the late treaties will be published, and some think that there may be debates in the Houses upon their being read there. The cause of the Corporations is to be consulted and heard before all the Judges next week. The Duke of Somerset told Sunderland that the Vice-Chancellor's absence would be prejudicial to the University, and Sunderland said he might return as soon as he pleased, and when that cause was to be resumed, he should have notice in time, and not obliged to come but when it might be convenient for the University and him. Some had zealously recommended Jackson and Pile, who have writ in defence of Bangor, to be chaplains in the room of Moss and Gouch, but when they spoke to the Duke of Newcastle for it, he said they were heretics. Bangor has nothing at the press yet. Sunderland says that he will never desire any favour for the Dissenters, but the taking off the Occasional Bill. When the Vice-Chancellor was before

the Council, he was placed behind the chair which is placed for the Prince. The King's eye, as said, was much on him. Parker asked him if he was cited before suspended. The Archbishop of Canterbury asked if the Declaration of the Heads of Colleges about Heads being arrestable was before or after he was arrested, and he declared it was before, and upon honour Sunderland asked him one question, but gave him liberty not to answer it if he was not prepared.

The Princess Anne is taught geography and use of the globes. She said the Duke of Bolton looked like her globe with a blue zodiac. Though the King had ordered new clothes for the three Princesses on the Prince's birthday, the Princess went down to see them dressed with new ones of her taking off. The Lady Orkney did all the honours of the Court at Hampton Court, and now at St. James's, preparing the tables, making the parties, &c. Smith spoke for, and Snell against, the Court on Tuesday was se'nnight.

Those at Court seemed to believe and say with assurance that both the Barrier Treaty and Quadruple Alliance are signed or agreed to. It is strongly said that Earl Stanhope says that Alberoni is inclined to the surrender of Sicily and Sardinia, upon the states of Tuscany and Parma being secured to Don Carlos in sovereignty without investiture or being a fief depending on the Emperor or Empire. It is said that Alberoni told a Jesuit, the King of Spain's confessor, that if the League of the North failed, they would be obliged to accede to that base Quadruple Alliance. Some cannot believe that the Czar adheres to his northern allies, especially the King of Denmark, or it is not well with the King of Sweden, otherwise the King of Sweden would not leave Stockholm and Schonen so naked, and march with all his troops so many hundred leagues to Norway, where he must wait for the frosts, and the Czar all the time in a deep inaction. The King of Sweden has ordered 12 new regiments to be levied, each of 2,000 men. The Czar threatens to employ 50,000 men against the Republic of Poland, if they join with their King in the design of setting the Electoral Prince of Saxony on his father's throne. It is said at Court that the Czarowitz was set on a wooden horse with iron pikes and 100 weight at every foot, that the pikes entered his body, that his intestines came out, that the Czar with knotted cords did lash him till he died, and that when some would have dissuaded him from it, he said, if God were present and forbad him he would not. The Czarowitz cursed him, and prayed God would send him to hell, and the Czar said he would send him there first.

They talk of a project of marriage betwixt Lord Rialton and Lady Dorothy Savile. They say a child was lately baptized by the name of Sobiesky. Lord Archibald Hamilton has married in Ireland the widow of Sir Francis Hamilton, who has been a widow above eighteen years. She had a great jointure, a part whereof for perpetuity, upon condition of not marrying, except one of the name of Hamilton. The King and Ministers hope to conclude the session before or about the beginning of February.

News Letter.

[1718,] November 25—This day the Commons agreed to the report of yesterday's resolutions in the Committee for laying 3s. in the pound on land, and for continuing the duties on malt, mum, and cyder, and ordered Bills to be brought in accordingly. The passing of the Bills on land and malt at the same time is thought extraordinary. Both

passed in the Committee and the House in a very short time, and without any opposition. The House yesterday and to-day sat a very short while. It is believed the session will conclude about the end of January, if some unexpected incident do not prevent.

Sir James Bateman died on Monday morning, November 10th. Lord Trevor's first lady was his wife's sister, which some say was the reason of the Lord Trevor's not coming next day to the House, though others assign a more odd reason. Mr. Trenchard's lady, who cut her own throat, was daughter of Sir Thomas Scawen, a match proposed and concluded in less than a fortnight.

It is said that an Irish gentleman wished the Count of Perouse joy upon the taking of Messina, and the Count wished him the same upon the arrest of the Princess Sobiesky, and since, the Irish gentleman, meeting the Count's intendant at the French play, insulted him, whereupon the Count has made a complaint at Court.

Colonel Puriel's lady having got a warrant for swearing the peace, retired to Mrs. Titchburn's lodging in Somerset House, and on the Sunday morning after, her husband, without any warrant obtained from the Green Cloth, came, and sending a servant with a letter to Mrs. Titchburn, upon her door being opened, rushed in after with a drawn sword, wounded the servant in the face, and took away his wife violently. She is a relation of the Lady Sunderland's, a handsome young lady, about 22 years old.

The Marquis of Annandale has married Mr. Bempde's daughter, without the consent or knowledge of her father and perhaps mother.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY at Eywood.

1718, December 2—Mr. Biss stood yesterday in the pillory in his gown and cassock, had no indignities offered him, but met with a great deal of civility and pity, so that it would have been more prudent to have omitted this last part of the sentence.

The repeal of Lord Bolingbroke's attainder is very much talked of, and daily expected to be brought into the House as a thing desired by King George, and is to be recommended to the House in a message from his Majesty.

The Dutch cannot yet be prevailed upon to complete the Quadruple Alliance. Amsterdam is very violent against it, and makes all the interest it can to prevent the others going in. They now say a war with Spain is not to be proclaimed (no more than is already) till France has proclaimed, which the Whigs give out will be the 15th, but every one else thinks otherwise.

You will see by the votes that the first design of building the fifty new churches is knocked in the head by their rebuilding old ones, and it is said we shall be thirty thousand pounds in debt for them.

[EDWARD HARLEY, junior,] to ABIGAIL HARLEY at Eywood.

1718, December 7. [Christ Church, Oxford]—The light you mention in yours (which indeed I forgot in my last till it was sealed) we saw just before we came down to the Hundred House. The light was very bright, equal to that of the full moon, darting out vast streams of different colours, some as red as blood, others blue and yellow. I enquired if it had been seen here, but was told it was not.

A visitation of both Universities is very warmly talked of. The Committee of Council that was ordered to enquire into Bentley's affair asked the Attorney General's opinion about a visitation, who could not then give them an answer, not being prepared; therefore was ordered to lay before the Council how far the King's power extended in this case. I hear he is to make his report this week. No one here is afraid of an impartial visitation. Let the Commission come down as soon as they think fit, the University is well prepared for the strictest enquiries, and for the worst they can do, though Oxford is to expect but little favour since her younger sister, the darling, the favourite, is so highly censured.

Bolingbroke's Bill is deferred for some time, though it is thought that it will certainly be brought in before this session is over. I am in great hopes of seeing him again secretary under his present Majesty's most auspicious reign, and then will his faithful ministry be entirely completed.

I desire you would look among your papers if you have No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, of "Robin's Last Shift"; and No. 13, No. 18, of "The Shift Shifted"; if you have, I should be glad of them, if you have no use for them; and if you have any of the addresses and speeches on Guiscard's business or Greg's printed paper.

[Edward Harley, junior,] to Abigail Harley at Eywood.

1718, December 25—The Church Bill was read a third time on Monday or Tuesday, I am not certain which; it was passed without a division. It consisted of three parts when presented by Lord Stanhope, the first repealed the obligation of taking the Sacrament upon entering into an office, the second takes away that clause of the Occasional Bill, which made it penal for one in station to appear at a conventicle, the third repeals the whole Schism Bill. Such warm opposition was made the second day that Lord Sunderland himself proposed the waiving the first part, and afterwards owned that it had never been part of the Bill, unless the Bishops of Gloucester, Lincoln, and Bangor had declared they would not appear for the Bill without it. I have here enclosed a list of those bishops who voted for and against the Bill.

Upon the reading of the Bill a third time, Lord Nottingham offered a clause to be added to it to prevent the growth of Socinianism, that no one should be admitted into any place without subscribing to the Articles of Faith, particularly that relating to the divinity of our Saviour, and to profess his belief of the Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testament. Lord Nottingham, Lord Oxford, Lord Anglesea, and the two Archbishops spoke for this, Lords Stanhope, Sunderland, Ilay against it. All the bishops that voted for the Church Bill voted against this clause, and to these came over Lichfield and Coventry, so that they threw it out. Well may they strip the Church and her members of her authority when they divest the head of both of His Divinity. Lord Nottingham read a letter from Exeter in the House which I have enclosed, and to which I refer you. I hope it will be published and spread over the kingdom, that people's eyes may be opened, and that no more poor souls may be deluded by these ignorant, fanatical infidels.

It is reported in London that the King of Sweden is certainly killed. I am afraid this report is too true.

Postscript.—The difference among the Dissenters in and about Exeter appears to have arisen from one of them, Stogden, having preached a sermon against the divinity of Christ; and at their general assembly at Exeter it was proposed that every one should subscribe a paper owning or denying their belief in the divinity. Sixteen subscribed against it, among them Pearse, Hallet, and Withers, of Exeter, and Gilling, of Newton Bushel; and thirty-two for it. Pearse is looked upon as the chief of them, and some of his congregation having left him upon that account, those that are his disciples are contriving to set up a new meeting house, wherein he may preach to them.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY at Eywood.

1718-19, January 4—Very high words passed between Lord Sunderland and the late Chancellor in the last debate, accusing one another of dishonesty and betraying their country, several broken sentences uttered which, if any one had but gently blown the flame, would have been filled up, and several secrets revealed which have been long desired. The Lords have leave to protest against the late Bill at their next meeting.

The famous preacher's name you enquire after is Morice, of Jesus College. He is suspended from ever preaching before the University again.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood near Presteign, Herefordshire.

1718-19, January 8—Both Houses met yesterday. The Commons read the Church Bill a second time, upon which was a very warm and long debate. Hanmer, Jeffreys, Shippen, &c., spoke admirably well against it, as did several others. Upon a division the Bill was carried by 41 (an ominous number), 202 against it, 243 for it. The Prince was in the gallery. Several Whigs voted against it, among which was Wallop of the Treasury. The Court are very angry at the Speaker, they have something which is not yet known in agitation against him; it is thought they will endeavour to remove him from the chair by sending him to the house of Peers, or by some other way that is worse.

It is talked that Cadogan will be out, and Argyll put in. Bolingbroke's business is again revived. The Bishop of Rochester went to Court to compliment the Monarch on New Year's day. The meaning of several steps this prelate has lately taken are as yet a mystery, though people give shrewd guesses.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY at Eywood.

1718-19, January 11—I have no other news but a further account of the debate in the House of Commons upon the Church Bill, to send my dear aunt by this post. Sir Thomas Hanmer, Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. Shippen, Cousin Tom Palmer, Mr. Snell, and Mr. Strangeways with several others are allowed by everybody to have distinguished themselves very handsomely against the Bill, but Walpole bore harder upon the Court than any Tory durst attempt to do. He began with his reasons that made him against repealing the Bill, the passing of which he had formerly opposed. He said the Occasional Bill passed

at a time when the Ministry seemed to intend some hardships to them, and that he thought that Act only a prelude to the abrogating their toleration, but that now this Bill had been brought into the other House by the chief of the Ministry with a clause in it that would in a scandalous manner have evaded the Test Act, which, though it was dropped, was a sufficient reason to discover their designs; that this would give a general alarm to the nation, and a great handle to the disaffected, who would inculcate into the minds of the people that many of the measures which occasioned an unfortunate prince's abdication were now renewed; that whereas the suspension of the penal laws and test was laid to that King's charge, he had mentioned before how the Test Act had been lately struck at; that whereas he was accused of seizing charters, there had been lately a debate in Westminster Hall for ten days together, the result of which might have laid most of the Corporations at their mercy; that the Ecclesiastical Commission had been declared illegal; that if fame might be credited there was a design of visiting the Universities. He desired them to remember that a noble Lord who presided in that King's councils, and was excepted out of an Act of Grace for it, was afterwards at the head of King William's affairs, and the reason assigned for this second station was, that he had persuaded his former master to those measures that ended in his ruin, but he hoped nobody set him as a pattern now. That he thought there were people enough to fill all offices without capacitating any more disqualified, and put the case, suppose a Secretary of State, either wearied with business or through restlessness of temper, desired to lay down, there was no occasion for sending abroad for one to succeed him, though he might be never so true a penitent, but that there might be found at home some man of abilities enough for that station (by which you will easily perceive he glanced at Bolingbroke, and does not favour his return). He concluded that to their comfort the heir of the crown could see the ill consequences of this, though the Ministry did not, and had openly protested against it.

When it was urged in the debate in relation to the Schism Bill that it was unnatural to deprive parents of the education of their children, Shippen said, since it was now the case of the greatest subject in England, he did not see why others should complain. The Tories made so brave a stand that it is thought the victory is of little use to the conquerors. The majority it was carried by I sent you in my last. Some of Walpole's party left him, though others not expected joined him, particularly Lords Castlecomer and Hinchinbroke, Mr. Wallop, Mr. Smith, Sir Robert Worseley, Sir John Cope, Governor Pitt and his eldest son, only four Scotch of the losing side. This account I send you from a letter I received from London on Friday.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY at Eywood.

1718-19, January 13—My father spoke very handsomely against the Bill; he laid open all the Exeter business (an account of which I sent you some time ago), and in doing of it cleared the Dissenters. He seconded the motion made by Lord Guernsey for bringing in a clause to prevent the growth of Socinianism, which was rejected by a great majority. I hear my father is much commended for what he said, and his speech is extremely liked.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY at Eywood.

1718-19, January 18—A Bill for the Regency is expected very soon in the House of Lords, but what the nature of it will be, whether the names will be certified in the Act, or left to the King's nomination, is not yet certain.

On Wednesday night Sir Edward Desboverie's petition for Shaftesbury was heard at the Committee, where Benson was defeated, though not only all the Germans, but the M[ona]rch himself solicited strenuously for him. The Prince's party and several of the other Court joined the Tories upon this occasion, which shews that all sides were heartily weary of the sitting member. Lechmere, Boscawen, Stanhope of the Treasury, &c., did not appear. About eleven Craggs moved for adjourning, but losing it, walked off with Aislabie and others. However, though the chiefs were gone, the underlings were resolved to maintain their post as long as they could, for Young, Erle of Bristol, Caswell, and some others of these second rated members protracted the debate with speeches and divisions till two in the morning, when the petitioner was voted duly elected by a majority of one hundred and thirty against eighteen. The Tories have been of late so little used to triumphs that you will believe this has elevated them. Benson is supposed to have exerted the utmost of his interest, so that it is not doubted but he will meet with the same success when the Committee make their report to the House.

RECORDS of the late COURTS OF WARDS and REQUESTS.

1718-19, February 5—The memorial of Mr. Anstis, Garter, showing that if it be the pleasure of the Lords' Committee for inspecting the Records to have the papers of the above Courts, now remaining in his custody, to be digested into order; and to annex the keeping of them to the office of Garter of Arms, he is willing to undertake the care thereof without any salary or reward, these instruments taken upon oath being the most certain proofs of the descents of the nobility and gentry.

In which case he humbly proposes that each instrument be reduced according to order of time, with regard to the subject matter of it and the contents put into calendars with these indexes, one of the surnames, the other of lands, and the third of matters, all alphabetically disposed under the particular counties, and that the loose papers (whereof there are an immense quantity) may be bound into volumes (if they appear to be of value), for preserving and keeping them constantly in the same method.

That the expense of new binding such books as want it, and of the paper for making indexes, etc., be from time to time repaid, with other incident charges upon laying particular accounts thereof before the Lords of the Treasury for the time being.

These instruments, consisting of duplicates of inquisitions post mortem, and proceedings of course in the Court of Wards, such as liveries, ousterlemains, premier seisins, proofs of age, tenures of lands and services thereof, together with proceedings in cases of controversies, and a great quantity of old deeds, will require much time and pains to be put into method, so that if their Lordships think reasonable to allow three clerks (who have been conversant in matters of record) to be employed, with such salaries as their Lordships shall judge proper, these persons may be sworn before one of the Barons of the Exchequer

(these papers relating formerly to the revenue), not to embezzle or alter any of them, or any other papers under their charge, and if he is permitted the liberty of nominating them, he will be answerable for their abilities, integrity and progress in this affair, as also that the catalogues shall be transmitted to the clerk of their Lordships' House, subscribed by Anstis as a charge upon himself, to be afterwards signed in like manner by the successive Garters Kings of Arms, and the same, if thought necessary, may be printed for that purpose as well as for the public service.

The books, parchments, and papers belonging to the Court of Requests shall be placed according to the catalogue of them formerly printed by Sir Julius Cæsar, and when the contents of them are better known, a further account shall be laid before their Lordships. It is humbly submitted to their Lordships whether it be not necessary to have his Majesty's warrant for these purposes if their Lordships approve hereof.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY at Eywood.

1718-19, March 1. [Christ Church, Oxford]—I received on Thursday night a very odd account from London that on Tuesday night arrived an express from Lord Stair with a letter wrote from Genoa, which says the Chevalier, with Lord Mar and others, set out from Rome on the 10th, and that a few days after three calashes and some attendants were seized by some German soldiers in the Milanese, and the whole company were immediately carried to Milan and secured in the castle there. You will see all the papers are full of this, and great credit is given to it, even by those who, if they could, would have done otherwise. However, it is rumoured that a letter of a later date from Genoa to Governor Pitt contradicts this whole story, so that till the next mail full satisfaction cannot be expected. It is certain some persons were stopped and are now at Milan, and the time agreeing with the Pretender's departure from Rome, it is guessed that he and his followers made that company.

There is not business enough before the Parliament to keep them sitting a week, but the Ministry themselves own the sessions will not end till Easter; everybody from hence concludes that some extraordinary business is upon the anvil, but of what nature I won't pretend to guess, since opinions upon it are so various.

It is generally agreed that Princess Sobieski is released, and it is said to come from such hands that there is no room to doubt of it.

There is much talk in London of a Bill being to be brought into the House of Lords to increase the number of Scotch Peers to twenty-five, and to make them hereditary instead of elective, and likewise to enact that the English peerage for the future shall not exceed the number of two hundred, exclusive of bishops, but that when any family is extinct, the king shall have the liberty of filling that vacancy. This is so great an alteration of the English Constitution and Scotch Union, that I believe the news of it will be as surprising to you as it is here, but the truth of it is not much disputed.

JOHN COCHRANE to the EARL OF DUNDONALD, Soho Square.

1718-19, March 12. Edinburgh—I delivered your letter to Lord Balmerino; he was very willing to sign it, but not forward to take

much trouble about it. All that I could push with him and Lord Blantyre was to have a general meeting of the Peers that are here to-morrow. They think it impracticable to get it signed by any but those near the town, because of the time limited by you for the return; but they propose that circular letters to you from all the Peers shall be procured, declaring their dissent, in the hope that they may come in time.

I can do nothing with Lord Eglinton's and Lord Glencairn's letters till I hear their resolutions to-morrow at their general meeting. Lord Wigton unluckily went out of town this morning; Lord Ruglen is in town, but I missed him, but am just going again to seek him.

The Earl of Ruglen to [the Earl of Dundonald].

1719, March 12. Edinburgh—Your Lordship's of the 7th by Mr. Cochran came safe this evening, for which I return you many thanks, as my Lord Cassillis does likewise, for we are both of your opinion, and I assure you that all the nobility here we meet with are in the utmost consternation and anger at the surprising doings against us, and at the same time have the highest esteem for those worthy English Peers, that have spoke so well upon our subject, but an abhorrence to any of our sixteen that have gone into this destructive Bill, which we hope will not pass, and for that end all imaginable pains will be taken to get the petition well subscribed. Your Lordship will be pleased to let all our friends know this, that they may be active to preserve our peerage, which you espouse so generously.

Postscript.—March 14—This letter that I had written should have gone by last post, but an accident stopped it. Yesterday the Peers did sign the petitions in my lodgings, except three or four. Considering how many have gone out of town to their country seats, it is very much that so many have signed in so short a time, which I assure your Lordship was very unanimous. It is not to be expressed how much all sorts of people talk against this; and the Peers at a greater distance will be sending up petitions with all expedition, but pray let not this which the bearer brings be delayed, for the Lords here thought it absolutely necessary to dispatch this one instantly, that it might be known above how disagreeable such a Bill as we are told of will be to so great a number of the nobility. I hope the petition will have good success, and that all our friends that are concerned will concur; the Lords here are all extremely sensible of the honourable part your Lordship acts, and nobody more than myself.

Lord Balmerino to [the Earl of Oxford].

1718-19, March 13. Leith—This day all the Lords who were in Edinburgh met at the Earl of Ruglen's lodgings, and very heartily signed both addresses. Though the number is not great, I did not expect to have found half the number, this being the vacation time, when everybody is gone to the country. Your Lordship cannot doubt but every Peer here has the present design in detestation, except such as expect to be of the twenty-five. As for me, I always expressed my abhorrence of it, when I might have expected to be of the number; yet it is fully owing to your Lordship that we have taken the pains to address, for many thought all opposition to this gross oppression vain, and that it would be done so suddenly that addresses would

come too late. As for me, I have given over the world; I neither meddle with public nor private affairs, yet I see your Lordship has power to draw me back a little. Whatever come of this, above an hundred Peers in Scotland owe your Lordship humble thanks, but we who were in town did not think it fit to detain Mr. Cochran for procuring hands from the country (which would have been very easy), but it would have made him return too late.

The Earl of Glencairne to [the Earl of Dundonald].

1718-19, March 16. Finlass—Last night I had the honour of your letter anent our peers. I am heartily sorry I was not so lucky as to be at Edinburgh when Mr. Cochrane was there, that I might have signed that petition to the House of Commons and shown my dissent to this new creation of twenty-five Peers, which must infallibly ruin us and our posterity to all intents and purposes. I assure you I would go to the world's end to prevent it, for sure I am never such another barefaced thing was ever thought of.

I hope in God it sha'nt pass the Commons, and, if it don't, if we forget our duty we're to blame. I am sure if we Peers had been advertised sooner, our meeting had been very full. It came so suddenly nobody could be aware of it.

Let me know how it is like to go in the House of Commons, and if they do assist us they shall never want my prayers; but I am so full of fears I know not what I am doing.

Postscript.—Pray send me a good Smithfield whip.

The Earl of Eglinton to [the Same?].

1718-19, March 19. Eglinton—I had the honour of your Lordship's and at the same time two addresses sent me from Edinburgh against this Bill, which is to take away the power of election from the Peers of Scotland and in place thereof the King is to make twenty-five of the Peers hereditary. I would gladly know the advantage that accrues to those who are not of the twenty-five; by this method, for my part, I "strang" (wonder) how any man of common ingenuity can agree to an act of such injustice.

All the Peers of Scotland are much obliged to your Lordship for the care and concern you have expressed in this matter, but I am afraid all will not hinder the Bill from carrying, for the Ministry never have hitherto been disappointed of anything they attempted. It is true this Bill touches the Commons, for, except six as I think, there shall hardly ever another Commoner be made a Peer, and perhaps forty will get the promise to be one of the six that they may vote for the Bill; this may ensnare some, but others will not be so easily caught. I truly believe Mr. Walpole and Sir Thomas Hanmer and Mr. Compton think they deserve the honour of Peerage as well as "Stenop" (Stanhope?) or Cadogan, how far these gentlemen may have power to disappoint the Bill I know not.

I acknowledge I almost despair, for I think God will permit violence and oppression to take place, until He fill up the measure of our iniquities. However, all ought to be done that is possible against this Bill, and therefore I have signed the address against it, and sent it to my Lord Cathcart, and others in this country, but I am afraid it will hardly come to London in time. If the Bill pass, I hear

most if not all of our present representatives are to be of twenty-five; there are three of them have not one foot of inheritance in Scotland, and I can name four or five more that all their estates together are not so considerate (*sic*) as either your Lordship's or mine. If this be justice, let God and the world judge.

The Earl of Ruglen to the [Earl of Dundonald].

1719, March 21. Edinburgh—The two enclosed petitions came hither this afternoon; it was thought fit to send them to your Lordship by this night's post without loss of time, and when the others come, they will be sent up with all expedition. I hope Mr. Cochran arrived safe; pray write what will be the fate of that Bill concerning the Peers here, the more it is talked of, the aversion grows the greater with all sorts of people.

I beg your Lordship to acknowledge the receipt of this with the first post, for I should be very uneasy if it should mis-carry.

The Same to the Same.

1719, March 24. Edinburgh—The two enclosed petitions came hither this evening from the noblemen of the shire of Aberdeen, which I send you by this night's post. It was expected by yesternight's London packet that we should have heard from your Lordship, and of the arrival of Mr. Cochran, but I hope the next post will bring us that account, and that our petitions shall meet with success.

Lord Kellie to [the Earl of Dundonald].

1719, March 30. Kellie—Would have signed the petitions against the Peerage Bill if they had come to his hand, but the short time they were to be returned in, made it not possible that they could come to the distance he lived at from Edinburgh, so signifies his opinion by letter.

Lord Blantyre to [the Earl of Dundonald].

1719, March 31. Lenoxlove—I return you my hearty thanks for the care you took in putting it in my power to show the dislike I had to the hereditary peers being made. I hope the petition we have signed to the Commons will meet with a better treatment than it had in the House of Lords; and I think the objections Lord Sunderland made of minors and Lords' eldest sons signing it were not worthy so great a man. The reason that so few sign should be made known to the Commons, as it proceeds from the distance we are from each other, and having no occasion to meet all at Edinburgh.

Lord Colvile to [the Earl of Dundonald].

1719, April 4. Craigflower—It was signified to me this afternoon by the Earl of Ruglen that if I would write a letter to you declaring my concurrence with the rest of the Lords in their petition against the Peerage Bill, it would come in time enough to be presented to the Commons. I hope this extraordinary occasion will excuse the trouble I give you to assure you that I do concur with them.

THE EARL OF RUGLEN to [the EARL OF DUNDONALD].

1719, April 4. Edinburgh—Nothing has been omitted by me to do all that was possible in the affair of our great concern, and truly the Lords that were here signing have done their part. All are extremely sensible of your zeal for the peerage and your country.

THE EARL OF EGLINTON to [the EARL OF DUNDONALD].

1719, April 9. Eglinton—Commenting on the Peerage Bill.

THE EARL OF GLENCAIRNE to [the EARL OF DUNDONALD].

1719, April 19. Finlass—On the Peerage Bill.

THE EARL OF RUGLEN to [the EARL OF DUNDONALD].

1719, April 23. Barnton—The good news your letter brought of the Peerage Bill being dropped was extremely agreeable, and I hope such an attempt again will never be made. We are like to have some disturbance in this country by a landing in the north, but I hope it will be very soon quashed, for the number being very inconsiderable and the good measures taken by the Government to supply this country with regular forces puts people out of all apprehensions of danger.

[The EARL OF OXFORD] to the BISHOP OF SALISBURY, Golden Square.

1719, April 29—I received your summons to attend at a chapter of the Garter. To prevent any misconstruction of my absence, I take the liberty to acquaint you that I remain under his Majesty's express command not to come to Court, which I apprehend does discharge my attendance on this occasion. If there be necessity for it I beseech your Lordship to do me justice to mention the reason of my absence. *Copy.*

1719, May 16. Baginton—I know little how matters now stand, and many events may happen to alter them before we meet, but I congratulate the time being come that the wolf dwells with the lamb, and the leopard lies down with the kid. These are very happy prognostics. However, I shall take my measures from your Lordship, if you please to continue your favour and friendship to me.

H[UMFREY] WANLEY to LORD HARLEY, Dover Street, near Piccadilly.
W. BROMLEY to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1719, May 16. Coventry—Had received his Lordship's very kind letter which had much revived his poor spouse's spirits and his own. Had that day seen a pretty parcel of old MSS., formerly belonging to the monastery of Llanthony near Gloucester, which, if they should be sold, he hoped would come to his Lordship. On Thursday, will attend Lord Harley, with his wife's, and his own duty to their most noble Lady, and the dear sweet one, service to Mr. Prior, &c.

On the other pages of this letter is written a long account of the interior of St. Mary's Hall, Coventry, the stone-work, monuments,

glass, &c. Among the pictures noted, is one of Mr. Will. Jesson, Wanley's mother's great uncle, a great benefactor to the Corporation; and "an old decayed picture of the ridiculous legend of the Lady Godiva's riding naked through this city, which is here represented as having more churches than we see now." The Mayoress's parlour is also mentioned as a large room "wherein her Worship, and the better sort of women dine, at the public feasts."

He concludes the paper with an account of "Jesus Hall, my grandfather Burton's late dwelling-house, which was built (although not mentioned by Sir William Dugdale) for the habitation of twelve priests. Here hath been horrid destruction of the fine painted glass since I was there. Two rooms taken out of the dining room, and the other turned into a bed-chamber, where the tapestry covers one of the windows entirely, perhaps to the preservation of the glass. Yet here remain some habits, arms, rebuses, and other fancies worth delineating; and a few more in the house adjoining, called the vicarage house, wherein I was born."

[Thomas Harley] to Mr. Auditor (Edward) Harley, in Lincoln's Inn Square.

1719, May 29. Paris—Here is a sale by auction of a great number of books being the collection of Monsieur Baluze, the catalogue has been sent to some of your acquaintance. They sell very dear, but when this sale is over, another will begin where one may perhaps meet with the books one desires at a cheaper rate. I design to stay till both are over. Mr. Twelves says he can get good books yet at a reasonable rate if he has orders to buy, notwithstanding many English and Dutch booksellers have been buying here.

The public funds at Paris are very much advanced, the Mississippi company which some months ago was about 35 is now 130, and there is a project to unite the East India Company to it, which together will make a capital of 125 millions, French. If this project succeeds the whole will be likely to rise much higher.

At Marseilles, I met with some merchants who came lately from Aleppo, and left your brother there in good health; he talked of coming away, but had not fixed his time. There is one Desbouverie gone over to him as he says to settle accounts with him; you can easily know in London the truth of that.

[Edward Harley, junior,] to Abigail Harley.

1719, May 31, [Oxford.]—We have no news here, all our talk is about a late election for Head of Wadham College, where upon the Warden's death, Mr. Girdler, a very worthy man, and Dr. Baker of St. Giles, a rank Whig, stood for the headship. As most wished, so everyone thought, the former would carry it, and indeed had the promises and assurances that were made to him been kept there had been no doubt of it, but he lost it by the treachery of one Leeves, a Fellow of the College, who had given him more promises and assurances of his vote than any of the rest, and so far pretended to be in his interest that he kept with him all the day before the election, and all the next morning, and went with him into the chapel to the election; but while they were at prayers, a paper being put into his hand (a Bank Bill it is

supposed, or promise of preferment), the promises he had made soon vanished, and he immediately voted for Baker. But what is more extraordinary, within six hours after the election, this fellow's conscience turned upon him so violently that before night he grew distracted, and is now so raving mad that there are two keepers upon him in his own chambers. The college has lost by the villany of this fellow 13,000*l.* benefactions, which several persons had promised to give, had Mr. Girdler been elected.

[Edward Harley, junior,] to his aunt, Abigail Harley.

1719, June 21—Expresses from Scotland bring the news of Wightman's having defeated the rebels, and tell us that Lord Seaforth having distributed two thousand stand of arms among the Highlanders and Spaniards, placed them to defend a pass which they were suspicious Wightman intended to make. The pass they defended very resolutely and bravely for several hours, killing several of the king's forces, not without loss of their own side, till at last being overpowered, they gave way, and the king's forces took the pass. The next day the Spaniards sent to capitulate, but the others (they say) took the best way they could to secure themselves. Lord Seaforth is shot through the leg, and Lord George Murray through the arm, but it is reported they are both since got off. Next post it is expected will bring clearer accounts.

I did not intend to stay longer than a month, whenever I went to Wimpole, and though it will be a great pleasure to me to be there, yet I shall think the time very long till I see Eywood. I think to buy me a grey durry that will be both mourning and not mourning; I have black clothes, but not fit to go thither in.

The Affair of Glenshiel.

1719, June 22nd. Glenloe. Upon the 5th of June, instant, Major General Wightman marched from Inverness by the way of Killikenman (which was twenty-four miles out of the road) with the troops under his command, viz., General Huffle's regiment, four companies of Amstrong's, Clayton's, Montague's, and a detachment of Harrison's regiment, one hundred and fifty dragoons, with ninety of Monro's Ferrindonald saints *(sic)*, commanded by Culcairn and Macneil, with about fifty of my Lord Strathnaver's men, commanded by one Lieutenant or Ensign Mackey, making in all (by the justest calculation I could make) about eighteen hundred men. They marched at a prodigious rate considering the road, and upon the 9th current, within six miles of the enemy's camp, which (to raise the glory of their victory) they say consisted of sixteen hundred men, but by the best information I can have were not above nine hundred Highlanders, and two hundred and seventy Spaniards.

Upon the 10th, about eight in the morning, the Highland camp advanced to the pass of Glenshiel, where nature had almost made them inaccessible, nay they fortified it by strong entrenchments from one side to another, being not above two hundred paces broad, and then formed their main body under the command of the Marquis of Tullibardine as general, whose commission was read that morning at the head of the army as ample as ever was given to any subject's.

In the mean time they detached two parties to form two wings about half a mile further on the neighbouring mountains, which fenced them

on both sides, that on the northern hill was commanded by the Marquis of Seaforth in person, where the Earl Marshall and Brigadier Campbell served as volunteers.

That on the right on the opposite southern hill consisted of about one hundred and twenty Belkash and Loch-Errin men with about fifty Camerons, and was commanded by Lord George Murray, Fairbores, John of Avoch, and Major James Mackintosh, Borlum's brother.

The last-mentioned wing was first attacked by the forces half an hour after four in the afternoon, and though they were vastly inferior in number to those who attacked them in their bodies, yet being equal in their courage and superior in their situation, they repulsed them thrice with considerable loss and maintained their ground bravely for two hours, till at last by their small morters (a new machine of General Cochorn's invention), the forces fired the heath and woods about them, and by that means smothered them out of their strongholds; upon which they retired in good order and with great deliberation to the main body.

My Lord Seaforth was next attacked and maintained his ground for two hours more with abundance of bravery, till at last his men, weary of so long and close fire, began to give way, upon which he stepped out before his men, towards the enemy, brandishing his sword to rally them, at which time he received a shot in the fleshy part of the arm. However he rallied them at length, and stood it out at one strong ground or other till about a quarter after nine, when being faint by loss of blood, no succours being sent him from the main body (though earnestly and frequently desired), his hardiest men being fatigued by long action, and overpowered by numbers of forces, who by this time had scrambled up the hill, and were advanced breast to breast, he was at last forced to retire, which he did without the least disorder or confusion.

Upon their arrival to the main body, it was advised they should lie that night in their trenches, in order to a second attack next morning upon the forces, who by this time were most heartily mauled, but instead of that, they were ordered by their General to march down to their camp at Kintail, from whence they came in the morning. There they were reinforced by a good many fresh Highlanders from Gerlock and other places, where everybody, Spaniards and all, made pressing instances with the Commander-in-Chief to fight next morning, promising an obstinate stand for their lives, king, honour, and country, but all to no purpose for they were dispersed by the same authority that convened them, and the Spaniards advised to surrender to General Wightman, which they did at three in the afternoon accordingly.

I am not to enlarge upon misbehaviour in general or particular, but certainly there was an Achan in the camp. Imprudence, cowardice, and knavery, were the principal ingredients in the composition of some there, and that not without the influence of some who were old friends.

It is certain there were not four hundred Highlanders engaged. I do assure you it was handsomely fought, both by those of the Government, and those who acted on the side of the day, but especially the attainted lords and gentleman showed inimitable bravery. Some of the officers who pretend to have known the Marquis of Seaforth, Earl Marshall, and Lord George Murray, swear they have seen each of them fire fifteen shot, and that Seaforth discharged his piece six times after he was wounded, and to do justice to your friend, Sir John Mackenzie, he made a noble effort to recover the reputation he had lost at Inverness. By what I can learn after the nicest enquiry, the regular troops have

lost four hundred men, either killed or deadly wounded, and the Highlanders have lost but seven men all commons *(sic)*, so that the damage the cause has sustained is not so great as the dishonour of being beaten on the 10th of June, though 'tis true the few that fought acquitted themselves like brave fellows, and pelted their assailants very soundly.

After the surrender of the Spaniards (who I believe would have fought if they had been permitted), General Wightman marched through Glenshiel, Kintail, and Loch Errin, plundering and burning in his way, and returned to Inverness with triumph, having sent his wounded men about by sea to Inverlochy on the 20th instant, bringing with him Doctor Arnot, with one Kintail man and a boy, who are all the British prisoners they have in custody. This is the most true and distinct account I could learn from all hands of this unlucky affair.

1719, June 27th. I believe the various accounts you have of us, especially of late, makes you anxious to hear of our fate among these hills. We had account that upon the 5th instant, General Wightman marched from Inverness with Montague's and Clayton's regiments, a regiment of Dutch, and four companies of another, a detachment of one hundred and twenty dragoons, one hundred of Lord Sutherland's men, with one hundred Monro's, and was joined at Kilcumen by one hundred men from Inverlochy, making about fourteen hundred men in all. Having marched by Glengary, and through Strathcluny, they came up on the 10th to Glensheil where we lay. Tullibardine, our General, with two hundred and sixty Spaniards, and between three or four hundred Highlanders lay on the south side of the Glen, and Seaforth on the north with four hundred men made up of his own and Macdougal and Mackinnon. When we expected all would act as they ought, our General refused with his body to engage, alleging he had no orders from the king to fight, and only detached Glenderuell, and Rob Roy Macgregor with sixty men to a pass which they quitted without firing one shot, upon the enemy's advancing, and retired to the General.

In the meantime, Marshall Brigadier Campbell and Seaforth, with the few they had on the north side, resolved to make the best they could of it, and posted themselves and men as advantageously as they could. About four in the afternoon, they were engaged, and maintained their ground till about nine at night, when the whole ammunition was spent.

While they were engaged, the General ordered Rob Roy to blow up the whole magazine, which he did, and to carry off his baggage, of which he took more than fell to his and the General's share, and the General marched southward with his whole body, without burning powder except firing the magazine, and having marched a little way he separated the Spaniards from him with orders to surrender, which they did about four next day.

In this action, Seaforth and the few that stood by him, acquitted themselves like heroes, and had they ammunition would probably have ruined the enemy, of whom they killed about two hundred, and wounded about two hundred and fifty, with the loss only of six or seven Seaforth's men. He himself led them on in his Highland habit, and fought amongst them at the same time without any distinction; he received a wound along the ribs, on the right side, which being slight, he concealed, and when the whole ammunition was spent, he drew his sword, and raising his hand with it, gave orders for all to fall on sword in hand, he was shot in the arm through the flesh, and his people flocking

about him, and seeing much blood upon him coming from both wounds put them in some confusion, which with the enemies pressing hard upon them obliged them to retire, and march to the 'Cro' of Kintail.

There is no fear of Seaforth. I hope he will recover in a very short time. It were a pity if he should not, having showed so much bravery at this time with a great deal of personal [risk?].

Loohriel, Borlam, Genruel, Rob Roy, and some others were the counsellors about the General, how they will account for their conduct I know not. Macdougal, Fairburne, Avach, and Belmukie behaved extraordinarily well in their several stations with Seaforth. For Camel and Dachmulug I know not. Moydiart nor none of his men were there, being hindered I suppose by ships from the coast, none of Glengary or Skye, but about eighty stragglers, who were with the General, as were what Camerons were there. There were some men on the tops of hills viewing at a distance who concerned themselves with neither party.

This you may take to be an impartial account of the number in action, on both sides. Whatever misfortune may be in it by mismanagement of some and unwillingness of others, Seaforth and the very few of his people have a vast deal of honour by it, and though so very few at this time appeared for the king, yet let it not discourage; for it is their former misfortunes makes them now cautious, but depend on it were there a landing in England, whereby there might be a probability of doing there were never more inclined that way in Scotland than at this time.

Signed:—"Dd." *(Copies?)*

[Edward Harley, junior,] to Abigail Harley.

1719, June 28. [Oxford.]—The Dutch are still resolutely bent not to come into the quadruple alliances, and since promises can have no effect upon them, threats are now used. The Emperor says he will take their barrier from them, and France and England that they will seize their ships; but they seem to understand their game better than to lose it for a few hard names.

The weavers are not yet quieted, those that were taken will certainly be made examples to terrify the rest; a commission is appointed to try them.

On the 29th of last month we had a very indiscreet sermon preached at St. Mary's, which has given the constitutioners an occasion of being again troublesome to the university. For one, the most violent among them (a gentleman that has no other qualification to recommend him to anyone's notice. but his zeal), upon the Vice-Chancellor not taking notice himself of the sermon, demanded a censure of it from him; the Vice-Chancellor ordered him to bring his accusation in writing, which he and the rest of the club immediately drew up, and delivered to the Vice-Chancellor. But not thinking he had done enough, he lays his information before the Lords Justices, who on Friday last sent an order to the Vice-Chancellor that he should immediately demand the sermon, and lay it before the proper judges, that if the information was found true, he might be brought to punishment. The delegates sat yesterday, but what they did I don't hear. Though the sermon may be drawn so artificially as to save the author blameless, yet I fear it will be of great difference to the university. The preacher is as great a coxcomb as ever Magdalen College bred though Sacheverell himself was one of her Fellows. Last week one that had been formerly Fellow

of Wadham, and senior proctor of the university, being arrested for a debt on a sudden, under pretence of going into his chamber for the money, shot himself through the head in the college, and died immediately. He is supposed (though how justly, I cannot say), to be the man that corrupted the Fellow (I mentioned some time ago), who turned the election for the wardenship. He (the latter) is now returned pretty well to his senses, and is a more hardened villain than ever justifying what he did at the election.

EUSTACE BUDGELL to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1719, July 5. St. James's Place—Acknowledging the generous and unexpected favour done him in mentioning him and his late affair with the Duke of Bolton on several occasions, much to his advantage. Desires to wait upon his Lordship privately, having something of consequence to acquaint him with.

EUSTACE BUDGELL to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1719, July 17. St. James's Place—The easy manner in which you were pleased to receive me, brought to my mind the late Lord Halifax, that great man whose memory I must ever love and honour, to whom while he lived, I had at all times free access, and who always encouraged me to speak my poor thoughts with the utmost liberty.

Your Lordship's known taste for polite literature makes me presume to send the enclosed, about which I took a pretty deal of pains before I was in business. You who were at the head of public affairs, and had but little time for reading when it came out, may probably not have seen it, so that it may perhaps serve for an hour's amusement in the country.

COUNT DE DEGENFELDT to [EARL OF OXFORD].

1719, July 22. The Duke of Schomberg, my father-in-law, being to be interred in Westminster Abbey on Thursday, the 30th inst., I earnestly entreat your Lordship to be present in the Jerusalem Chamber on that day at ten at night to bear up the pall as the last mark of friendship to a brother of your most noble order, who always had a true respect for your Lordship.

W. LOWNDES to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1719, September 10. Treasury Chambers—The Lords of the Treasury desire you will please to sign the instrument relating to your surrender of the office of housekeeper at St. James's, and the house thereunto belonging, in order to registering the conveyance, pursuant to the late Act of Parliament in that behalf.

FRANCIS, BISHOP OF CHESTER, to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1719, October 9. Christchurch [Oxford]—We are here under an inexpressible concern for the loss of our good Dean [Smalridge], how far his successor will fall short of him we cannot yet tell, because we are not yet informed with any certainty who he will be. Dr. Egerton's

interest is not found sufficient. Dr. Boulter is talked of with the most assurance, he was formerly commoner of this House, afterwards fellow of Magdalen College, chaplain to Sir Charles Hedges, and now archdeacon of Surrey, and minister of St. Olave's, Southwark. Our good Bishop [of Bristol], has left his family in very mean circumstances.

[Charlwood Lawton to the Earl of Oxford.]

1719, October 13. Northampton—Last Friday, I spent my time agreeably, for, after having seen Althorp and a horse-race in our neighbourhood, Lord and Lady Harley and his Excellency, honest Matt. Prior, did me the honour to dine with me, and seemed contented with the poor entertainment I could give them. I wish I could have made it better.

Dr. John Covel to Lord Harley.

1719, November 14. Christ's College, Cambridge—I have now finished the catalogue of all my medals, in copper, silver, and gold, in a long folio book; and I have in a quarto book set down all the other curiosities, antiquities, seals, and varieties which I have been collecting these forty or fifty years. I have at the beginning of the quarto book in a sheet of paper set down what I value them at, first in particular, and then in general.

God knows that my very heart and desire is this that you should have a just pennyworth for your penny, and that I may have a full penny for my pennyworth. When you shall have pitched upon two or three such equal and indifferent judges, I desire that they may come for two or three days (for I doubt their business cannot well be done in less), and minutely view everything and fairly discourse each particular. I shall with all joy and pleasure afford them a dish of good meat and a bottle of wine, and a hearty welcome and thanks for their acquaintance. I shall be heartily glad if Dr. Sherard might be one of them. I know him not personally, but I am well acquainted with his excellent character, he having been in Turkey, and himself also having made a great collection of such rarities.

I am an old man, and now going the 82nd year of my pilgrimage, and have been beyond sea first and last above thirteen years. I may, I hope, modestly pretend to some skill and judgment in these matters.

There is no man living, who shall more than myself devoutly honour, or more zealously applaud, your most truly noble and glorious enterprise for outvying the Vatican and the great Ptolemy himself, by your magnificent structures, and exquisite collection of books and all other monuments of antiquities and curiosities, which may in all manner of literature advance the glory of your own nation, and eternally oblige the whole learned world.

The Earl of Dartmouth to [the Earl of Oxford].

1719, November 25. Sandwell—Your Lordship has too much goodness to forget your servants, though never so long absent, and I hope you do me the justice to believe nothing can give me so much satisfaction in my retirement, as hearing of the health and happiness of your Lordship and family.

I should have had an inexpressible joy in kissing your hands at Sandwell, and do not despair of doing it some other time in your way to Brampton. I have no house in town, or thoughts of going thither but design to remove to Blackheath for some time after Christmas. Lord Bathurst and Mr. Lewis called here about ten days ago, and the first was in great haste to be back by the opening of the Parliament, where he expected great matters, though he could not tell what; but Sir Charles Holte showed me a letter yesterday from Mr. Bromley (who does not intend to go to London till after Christmas), in which he tells him he hears they design to bring in the Peerage Bill, regulate the universities, and give the king power to name his successor by will, but the two last, he thinks, will hardly be attempted.

Lord Gower was here lately, and told me he was resolved to stay all this winter in the country, and I received a letter last week from Lord Poulett to let me know he shall do so too, but I will venture to say they will all change their resolutions if your Lordship thinks it proper they should.

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM to THE EARL OF OXFORD.

1719, December 8—In hopes of your leaving soon the country, I flattered myself with the belief that your Lordship was not so merrily disposed there, as I found you in the letter I received the favour of t'other day; to which though I ought not to answer seriously, yet I cannot forbear assuring you that I am both too old for verses, and yet too young for doating enough to print my own. If I had known before your inclination to bowls, I had desired Lord Foley last summer to draw you in to Marylebone, which would not have been less pleasing for your passing so near Harley Square, at which sort of prosperity, as well as any other that can happen to your Lordship, I heartily rejoice.

[EDWARD HARLEY, junior] to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1719-20, January 17—The general talk for this week past has chiefly turned upon the Duke of Dover's affair which was on Thursday last determined against him, though with no small solemnity, for the King's Council for Scotland were first heard to the point, whether a minor being before the Union created a Peer of Scotland was at liberty upon coming to age to accept or refuse that patent. They agreed in the affirmative, for the present Duke was created Earl of Solway in Scotland during his minority, and before the patent passed for creating his father Duke of Dover. After the council were withdrawn, Lord Carleton made a long speech to distinguish the Duke of Queensberry's case from the Duke of Hamilton's and to prove that the Lords' resolution in the case of the latter could not prejudice the right of the former. Lord Sunderland answered that he thought the Duke of Queensberry came under the judgment which they had made upon the Duke of Hamilton, and that if the principal person in the patent was under an incapacity of receiving it, the patent must be void as to the grantee in remainder; that unless this were allowed a foreigner might be created a peer, and if he entailed it on a natural born subject, that person in remainder might claim his seat, he concluded that he was sorry his judgment would not permit him to be for the duke, but he should gladly embrace any other way (supposing an Act of Parliament) to make him easy.

Lord Cowper answered him in behalf of the Duke; afterwards the Dukes of Buckingham and Argyll. Lords Cowper and Guilford spoke for the writ; Lords Trevor, Harcourt, North, and Coningsby against it. The chief point in debate among them was the Scotch peerage, but even those who were against the Duke expressed their readiness to agree to a Bill in his favour. After six at night the House divided; 61 against the writ, 42 for it. No Bishops voted for it but the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Chester. Oxford and Lincoln went out. Rochester and the rest stayed and voted against him. It is said Lord Harcourt has all his arrears paid, and is to have 3,000*l.* pension. Some say a general peace is concluded, but do not tell us what terms are stipulated for England.

EDWARD HARLEY, the Auditor, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1719-20, February 2—By Mr. Knight, I gave your Lordship some account of the affairs depending in the house between the Bank and South Sea Company, and left several particulars to be repeated from his memory. This affair is now brought to a conclusion. The South Sea Company and their friends being resolved to have the project, made yesterday an offer to pay seven millions, which is an advance of three millions five hundred thousand pounds above the first proposal, and one million and a half above the Bank. The committee last night, and the House to-day, have agreed to their proposal, and ordered a Bill to be brought in for the same, so that now your dirty ditch is filled with the capital of above forty millions. Your friend, Lord B , who it is said assisted the Bank in forming their proposal, is a good deal bit by the great fall of Bank stock.

The spirit of stock-jobbing is rising to a higher degree than ever; they that cannot turn themselves to this, will find very little to do here, and can only be the spectators of other men's cheats and follies. There has been in former ages something like our Exchange Alley. When this humour became prevalent, some of our greatest patriots thought a retirement to a country farm both a safe and wise retreat.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1719-20, February 4. [Oxford]—You will easily forgive my not writing last Tuesday's post when you know in how great a fright and hurry we were all in here that day, being alarmed by four in the morning by a terrible fire which broke out in our hall, occasioned by the servitors and choristers burning after dinner the Christmas holly bushes and other boughs, large sparks of which flew up, and stuck in the dry wood of the lanthorn which was on the top. It is thought the damage it has done will not be repaired for less than 500*l.* The wind, which was then very high, set from the rest of the college, had it blown towards it, in all probability, great part of one quadrangle must have been burnt. It is a great mercy that it happened not in any gentleman's chamber, and that no one received any manner of hurt by it.

You will see that the House of Commons have closed with the South Sea, who have offered 7,500,000*l.*, which is two millions more than the Bank proposed. The King of Spain is come into the Quadruple.

ERASMUS LEWIS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1719-20, February 13. London—After several excursions to almost every point of the compass with my Lord Bathurst, I returned here the latter end of last month, where I had the mortification to hear I should not have the honour of waiting on your Lordship in this town during the session, but, however I may feel the loss of your Lordship's presence here, I cannot but think it very reasonable that your Lordship, who has given so many years to the public should allow one to yourself.

As I doubt not but you are very well diverted by the accounts of many fantastical events that pass, you will, however, have a more than ordinary pleasure to hear of the prosperity of your own child, the South Sea Company, for since you suckled and nourished the infant, it is grown prodigiously, I had almost said to an unnatural bulk. What effects this may have upon the State nobody can penetrate into further than yourself, but sure the least discerning eye can discover that a body of men, with a stock of forty-three millions, and credit for as much more, acting by united counsels, must fill the House of Commons, and rule this little world. An attempt will be made to authorise the Government to coin Exchequer bills, and circulate them by the credit of the sinking fund. What occasion then will there be for Parliaments hereafter? or, if any assembly should bear the name, whose creatures are they to be? and what may we expect from them?

I have a far more pleasing subject for my thoughts, when I think on little Lord Dupplin's acting a part in "The Orphan" which he performed to the admiration of everybody, and much beyond what I thought possible for a child of his age. May every branch of your Lordship's family be as great an ornament to it, and that you may for many years enjoy the comfort and satisfaction is the hearty wish of one who by all ties is ever bound to you with the utmost respect and duty.

JONATHAN SWIFT to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1719, February 16. Dublin—I was surprised to hear of a domestic of your Lordship's in this country, who was so kind to call upon me, and give me an account of your health, but I could not gather from him that he had any orders to do so, and therefore his kindness is the greater. I live such a stranger to intelligence, that I had not heard of your passing so long a time in the country, otherwise it would have been a great temptation to me to have been one of your family for some months. I think this is the first letter of form that ever I writ to your Lordship, and consequently will be the worst. I was so well-pleased with Mr. Minheed's company, and the informations he gave me, that I did not remember my ill-health while he was with me. He assures me that yours is in very good order, for which no man can be gladder than myself. I never complained of your neglect when you were the greatest and busiest minister in Europe, but I am afraid your sufferings have made you proud and forgetful of your friends. I have long begged your picture, and continue to do so, and it is the only thing I ever begged of you for myself. But I shall order my brother Harley and sister Harriette to be my solicitors, who have shown their remembrance of me in so obliging a manner, as I never can express my acknowledgments for it. Your servant, the bearer, has so little relish for this fine country that I could hardly get time to write this.

Your Lordship and family have my constant prayers, and I shall ever remain with the greatest respect and truth your most obedient and humble servant.

[Edward Harley, junior,] to Abigail Harley, at Eywood.

1719-20, February 15—I fancy most people in London are busy in getting estates in the South Sea, some considerable ones have been raised already by those who were at first into the secret. 'Tis said, very justly I think, that the South Sea will have the greatest hand in choosing the next Parliament whenever a new one is called.

Abigail, Countess of Kinnoull, to her father [the Earl of Oxford].

1719-20, February 18. London—About a fortnight ago some of the Westminster scholars acted a play called "The Orphan," Lord Erskine's part was Monimia, and Tommy acted Cordelio the page; they both did their parts mighty well. Mr. Prior made a prologue which Tommy spoke as well as I could wish. He told me he would send you a copy of it, which I hope he has done.

Edward Harley, junior, to Abigail Harley, at Eywood.

1719-20, February 25—I find that there are few in London that mind anything but the rising and falling of the stocks, upon which all the news and talk of the town turns, so that unless I bring South Sea, African Bank, cent. per cent., par, &c., and such stuff into my letter I shall neither be fashionable nor fill it up. It is said, Duke of Chandos has 30,000*l.* in the African, and that John Barber, the printer, has got 20,000*l.* in the South Sea, but I am too much straitened in my time to give you a list of the lucky men, so must refer you to the public prints.

Abigail, Countess of Kinnoull, to her father [the Earl of Oxford].

1720, March 29. London—The town is quite mad about the South Sea, some losers, many great gainers, one can hear nothing else talked of. Exchange Alley is the place of greatest resort now, there they call this end of the town Wapping. It is being very unfashionable not to be in the South Sea. I am sorry to say, I am out of the fashion.

[Charlwood Lawton to the Earl of Oxford.]

1720, March 29—Nobody talks of anything but stocks and South Sea, and now and then a duel. One was fought yesterday between the Duke of Douglas and Lord Dalkeith, wherein I hear the latter was much wounded.

Erasmus Lewis to [the Earl of Oxford].

1720, April 19. London—I dined yesterday with my Lord Dartmouth at Blackheath, who always remembers your Lordship with the greatest friendship.

I have heard but one sound these three months in this place, viz.: that of South Sea, which has got the better of men's politics and ladies' fashions, and has entirely engrossed all conversation. There are several calculations printed to shew there can be no solid foundation for this rise. There is but one paper printed in favour of the scheme, and that is full of the grossest fallacies.

EDWARD HARLEY, the Auditor, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1720, April 21—Mr. Knight will acquaint you with the present humour of this place, the great doses of opium that are swallowed by the stock-jobbers have intoxicated the whole town, so that what becomes of the peace or trade is very little regarded. It seems whatever the French think necessary for the advantage of their trade must be given up. But this must be settled at the Congress, and then who could help it?

The King will go to Hanover, but Parliament must first give five hundred thousand to pay the debt of the civil list.

I am under the displeasure of some for stopping the warrant for issuing debentures to the amount of two hundred thousand for payment of a pretended debt to the Dutch, reported by the Commissioners of the Army.

The calico bill, by the influence of the East India Company, is to be sunk in the House of Lords, and their old friend, Lord Treasurer, is made use of for this purpose.

The parts that have been acted by all sides is so weak that it is hardly to be paralleled. The Tories had the Court entirely in their power, that they could have forced them into anything that was popular. But by the wise conduct of [Nottingham?] all these were thrown away, and their best country friends gone home out of humour.

Lord Harcourt has agreed for seventy-five foot of ground in Cavendish Square to build immediately. I hope a great part of that ground will be let at Midsummer. I am doing the best service I can in it. Lord H. says your Lordship has the computation of the value of the whole ground which would be of great service to us if it could be sent up.

Mr. Cæsar never mentioned anything of that African subscription, though he was here several times, so that I have secured for your Lordship but five hundred, but might have done more had I known to whom to apply, but have secured a subscription for your Lordship, which is better.

COUNT BERNSDORF'S PROJECT.

1720, May 7—Paper headed, "The copy of a project sent by Count Bernsdorf to Count Zinzendorf, translated out of High Dutch into English." The disgusted Whigs have endeavoured to convince his Majesty that the Cabal design to alter the constitution, to destroy the present establishment, and the quadruple alliance which was formed for the security of both, but it seems now that all they intend by that alliance is their own security, the better to enable them to run the nation into an Aristocracy as appears by the frame of the South Sea Bill.

That the Cabal design to amuse his Majesty with a peace in the South, in the same manner as they have done that of the North,

but in the end will order it so as to establish themselves, and be able for the future to give laws to the King and his son, and even remove them when they shall think proper.

For this purpose they will be condescending to France and Spain the better to secure the interest of those two Crowns, by whose power they intend to keep the Czar from a peace in the North till such time as those two powers can be in a condition to enable him to disturb the peace of that and the Empire.

The disgusted party offer to countermine these designs of the Cabal, for which purpose they have laid before his Majesty the following scheme:

To give good terms to Spain in order to secure the South Sea trade with some advantage to that company, the better to enable them to furnish his Majesty with two or three millions independent of Parliament, as his affairs especially should require it. By this means his Majesty may bring the Czar and other princes of the North to be at his devotion, and keep them in his interest.

To secure the peace of the North and the Empire for the future, they propose to advance money to King Augustus to buy off the Crown General and some Palatines in order to make Poland hereditary, by which means they would also be able to keep the power of France within bounds.

That it would be more for the interest of his Majesty and the nation to make some addition to his German dominions by purchasing of some country contiguous to his present territories, which would enable him to hold the balance between the Northern powers better than by sending a fleet yearly to the Baltic, which gives umbrage to the people.

France will undertake no new war during this minority, consequently his Majesty, in conjunction with his Imperial Majesty, may the easier put these schemes in execution.

As the present Cabal is made up of two classes of men entirely resigned to the will and direction of two or three at most, and as the one class are men of birth but no experience all miscarriages may be laid at their door, and the latter being men of some experience, but no birth, there can be no difficulty to bring them to justice to make an atonement to the people, and when their indirect practices and miscarriages are laid open it is presumed none either at home or abroad will appear in their favour.

It is conceived his Majesty must not delay long to give attention to this scheme, because to defer it to the next sessions will be dangerous.

Your Excellency will see that it is the opinion of most of our friends, as well as our own, that there is a necessity to change hands, and as the persons that offer this project are of consequence, and promise sincerely to stand by his Majesty, he may safely give in to them. It is true the Regent may be dubious, but as he has views of his own he will at least stand neuter, however, I am certain that his Majesty will be much better in the hands of those new projectors than where he is at present.

He must dissemble and take no notice of their proceedings towards us, to give us the better opportunity to provide ourselves with honest men, and probably the measures that were formed against us may be improved to our advantage. This summer will, in all likelihood, be spent in treaties (you know our mouths are shut up), therefore it would be very proper to hasten an Imperial Minister here to observe

their motions, and to find out what clandestine measures may be carried on with France, which, if not timely discovered, may tend to the prejudice of both our Masters. You are sensible how dangerous it is to trust Ministers abandoned to their pleasures, for such have more than once been corrupted by France.

Thank God we have persons that will counterpoise and assist the King to disappoint them.

Instead of performing their promise to push forwards and to assist the King to cut off all dependence they relent, and in all likelihood will spend eight months' time doing that which might be done in three. However, I hope their designs will be brought to light, and the eyes of the people will be opened, which will give the King an opportunity to part with them with honour and reputation to himself by constituting in their places Earl Cowper, Duke of Chandos, Earl of Pembroke, Earl of Oxford, Duke of Rutland, Duke of Devonshire, Duke of Somerset, Lord Carleton, Lord Townshend, Sir Peter King, Paul Methuen, Esquire, Robert Walpole, Esquire, with six or seven more of the leading men amongst the Tories, as shall be invited to join with this list. His Imperial Majesty to assist the King with his troops from the Netherlands on any emergent occasion.

Dear Sir,

I had done myself the honour to have sent you this before had not Mr. R. M. been in town, but cannot lose this opportunity. The date of it I do not know, you being in town, Mr. W. Jeff——, the merchant, being known to Lord Sunderland, carried it to him and assuring him of the truth of the matter, put him not into a little fright. That night he consulted upon it with Lord Stanhope and Craggs. After three days' deliberation they went and showed it to the King, and perfectly bullied him for giving in to such measures against his best friends, persuading him at leastwise to appear reconciled to the Prince, upon which, after a consultation with Walpole, Townshend, and Devonshire, Mr. Craggs went to invite the Prince to Court. This was managed with such secrecy that the Germans knew not one word of it thirty minutes before the Prince went, and were not a little confounded at it. The French Resident had been apprised of all from the beginning, and sent it to the Regent before the Court had it. When the King saw the Prince upon his knees, he spoke not one word to him good, bad, or indifferent, but made a sign for him to rise with his hand, nor did the Prince stay in his presence above two minutes, nor did the Prince speak one word to the Duke of Newcastle, though he stood in his way on purpose.

The next day all the Ministers went in a body to compliment him, but he spoke not one word to any of them, but Argyll and Stanhope. The same day Townshend, Walpole and the rest of that party dined with Lord Sunderland, who then publicly charged them with the matter of this letter, upon which they all denied it, but owned they had a project for to remove the Ministry. The next day Townshend and Walpole met the three Ministers privately to examine into the project, and after further information told the Ministers they plainly saw nothing would make the nation happy but a R——. There seems to be a very good understanding between our Ministry and the Regent. The Germans are almost at their wits' end, yet have entered upon a new project deeper than this. Your opinion on these matters would be no small favour to my old friend Mr. Hobler, if you would honour me with them by the "Conall." I had done myself the

honour to have waited on you myself before this, being not a little uneasy for that happiness (very much approving of your long stay in the country) had not my book hindered me. Hoping your goodness will pardon this liberty from him who esteems it one of the greatest happinesses of this life to be in your good opinion, none being more desirous to serve you with all sincerity than your most obliged and most obedient humble servant.

1720, May 17—Yesterday I did myself the honour to see your cousin in the Temple, though I restrain myself of the honour of visiting everybody till I finish my work. The enclosed ballad is most in vogue now in our streets, which they sing very plain.

Missing the opportunity of the box sent you the date above, obliges me to stop the ballad till another opportunity. The Ministry press very much to see an original letter. Your opinion on this is very earnestly desired by next post, because very much pressed about it. Mr. Jeff—— is frightened out of his wits for fear any copy of this should be sent to the Ministry, therefore, if it should I shall entirely lose a friend or two, and never hear any more. The Prince is not to be Regent, K[ing] G[eorge] goes off about the 7th of June, and Prince Frederick is very ill.

[Edward Harley, the Auditor, to the Earl of Oxford.]

1720, May 23—I hope you will forgive that I have omitted writing so many posts. I have been taken up almost from morning to night, in settling the Marybone buildings. Lord Harcourt's lease is settled. He has begun digging the foundations of his house. The Duke of Norfolk has taken the west side of the Square, and I think the whole will be let within a week.

The madness of stock-jobbing is inconceivable. This wildness was beyond my thought, and, therefore, did not stay so long for myself or your Lordship as I should have done, and therefore have not made so much for you as I would have done.

Your African stock shall be disposed, for it is a mere bubble, what fate hangs over us is too easy to be guessed from what has happened in France. The Regent is forced to submit to the Parliament, Princes of the blood, and the inclination of the people. Some say Mr. Law is committed, others that he is secured by a guard, others that he is fled. What revolution this will produce there and what influence it may have here a little time will show.

[Thomas Harley] to the Earl of Oxford, at Brampton Castle.

1720, May 31—The new stocks erected in the city are numberless, but many of them are dying like flies with a blast of cold wind upon the bill depending to establish some and sink the rest. When that bill passes the Parliament is to rise, and soon after the King goes to Germany. During his absence they say the Prince is not to be interrupted from his diversions by any attendance on public affairs.

They talk of some new peers—Bateman, Aislaby, Boscawen, Byng, Walpole, and Wallop, and that Walpole is to be Paymaster in Ireland.

South Sea Stock is about six hundred, they talk of a new subscription at seven or eight hundred.

The great disorders at Paris on the sinking of their Stock from eighteen hundred to about four hundred is in some measure appeased.

The Princes of the blood being joined with the Parliament of Paris, the Regent is forced to yield to their representations, and they are now finding out means to give a currency to money, and to make provision that the people who were forced into the stocks and compelled to take bank bills may have their effects secured to them.

Law is removed from the management of the revenue and put to inspect his own invented Bank and Company.

M[ATTHEW] PRIOR to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1720, June 17. Westminster—I write you this letter purely to enquire of your health, and to tell you that I am forsaken by your family, Lord Harley being gone a progress I know not where, Lady Harriette at the Bath, little Peggy at Clapham, and Tom Harley as hard to be found as if he were in a messenger's hands, nay, hardly any countryman of yours is here except Con[ingsby], and if you have any other like him pray keep him at home. I can tell you no news in general, we build upon the peace of Utrecht, and stock job upon the credit of the South Sea, contenting ourselves by saying that both are now other things than they were. Upon these heads I am sometimes serious with the Auditor for half an hour, but Magna Charta comes into one's head and spoils all.

I desired your Lordship in my last, and so did my Lord Harley, to write to the Bishop of London that Mr. Newcome, of St. John's, may succeed Mangey as his Lordship's chaplain. The thing would be done (as it is already in a fair way) if such a letter confirmed it. You made an Ambassador, a Privy Seal, and a Bishop for Dr. Robinson, what will he not make a chaplain for you? One would try at least. I have heard of a horse that was to come out of Herefordshire, he has been a long time on the road, I fear your Lordship has rid him so hard that, like my Pegasus, he is foundered. Adieu, my Lord, *vivas et valeas.*

Postscript.—How do you like my Preamble to my patron Dorset's patent?

Preamble in Latin, and translation enclosed.

[EDWARD HARLEY, the Auditor, to LORD HARLEY.]

1720, June 21—I am so much fatigued that I hope you will excuse that I write not with my own hand.

I must begin with Cavendish Square, which is my present mistress. I have been this day with Lord Carleton, who has taken seventy-two foot to the east side of the Duke of Chandos's gardens. Lord Shelborne is to have as much or more next to him northward, and I think we have the prospect of setting all that lies to the westward, as far as the wall of the Manor House, along the Duke of Chandos's gardens, in which Mr. Hutchinson has been very serviceable. Both Lord Bathurst and Sir William Windham have been with me to take ground, but this long area being in a manner set, we have turned our thoughts how to make the best of the east side of the ground. Prince has drawn a new plan, which with some alterations may do very well, and I hope a great part may be soon set, in order to which we think it advisable to move the church by the east corner of that ground, which we think will have the same effect as the removing

the Duke of Chandos's house from the place where it was first intended, for what we are now principally to attend, is the filling the east side, and I think it will be very proper that the foundations of the church be laid this year, and immediately begun.

As to the market house, I have taken upon me to direct immediately the building, for some reasons I have lately met with, which you may easily guess, and which I hope will put a stop to some other projects. Mr. Hutchinson has taken a survey of all the pits that have been dug by Long for gravel and brick clay, and which by his lease he is obliged to fill, which to do will cost ten thousand pounds, so that you will have him in your power to bring him to reasonable terms. I have directed that notice be given him that you intend to build upon that part of the ground which by his lease he is obliged to quit, and I hope by degrees we shall bring him to reason. Be pleased to let me have your directions in these matters, that my zeal to serve you and my Lady may not lead me into any mistake.

[Edward Harley, the Auditor, to Lord Harley.]

1720, June 21—By last post I writ largely, and, therefore, cannot have much to add, but that the affair of your buildings upon Marybone ground goes on very successfully.

Lord Carleton has signed this day the agreement for 130 feet on the east side of the Duke of Chandos's garden, which will help quickly to set the whole on that side.

We have now fixed the place for the Market Place, which is varied a few feet from the place it was first intended, but I hope is right with respect to the other ground. No time must be lost in building the Market house, for the reasons you may easily guess, and, therefore, I have directed that it should be immediately begun.

[Edward Harley, the Auditor,] to the Earl of Oxford.

1720, June 25—The demon of stock jobbing is the genius of this place. This fills all hearts, tongues, and thoughts, and nothing is so like Bedlam as the present humour which has seized all parties, Whigs, Tories, Jacobites, Papists, and all sects. No one is satisfied with even exorbitant gains, but every one thirsts for more, and all this founded upon the machine of paper credit supported only by imagination. This is so overstretched that it is no secret it is in the power of France and Holland to draw away every shilling in England. If this fatal hour should come, which in all probability will, no earthquake can produce a more terrible convulsion. If the stroke comes from heaven by a foreign hand, it must be submitted to, but surely no wise man would intermeddle to have this ruin under his hand or intermeddle in it, or assist to sink a broken ship.

According to my apprehension of things, I must say with the freedom of a friend, I think, if possible, your Lordship should avoid coming to London, as the situation of things now is, and I must say that there are none here, except of your own name, that would not sell you or any one for a South Sea subscription; when I tell you a management of Lord Bingley and another Lord, even with relation to yourself, you will believe me.

A squadron is fitting out for the Mediterranean, and it is said we are not without some apprehensions of the siege of Gibraltar. The

alteration of the Ministry in France gives a great uneasiness; should they settle their affairs embarrassed with paper credit, some think we should quickly feel the effects.

I hope you will forgive the freedom of this, for in the present crisis I am apprehensive that your coming up now must be attended with great jealousy and hazard.

William Bromley to the Earl of Oxford.

1720, July 5—Hearing accidentally of your Lordship's intentions to pass this week through Oxford to London, you must give me leave in this manner to kiss your hands on your journey.

Your Lordship was not in town all the last session, nor I any longer than to attend the fate of the Peerage Bill. It is incredible what solicitations and applications were made to gentlemen to pass it. I never knew the like on any occasion. We are much blamed for not complying with them, by some who look upon their schemes to have been disappointed by it; but if your Lordship approves it, I shall still think myself in the right.

If it had been thought necessary, and you had advised it, I would have returned to Parliament after Christmas. But it was to no purpose, we could only have joined with them, and no further than they thought fit to go, in whom we could have no confidence, who were making their own terms at the expense of others, and have at last sacrificed him whose interests they pretended to espouse. Our friends who entered into measures with them, and were deluded by them, make a mean figure, and I am told have been under the greatest uneasiness.

We are running into the same follies and madness as they have done in France, and those that find a great present advantage are much pleased, and have no concern for any consequences that may follow.

Your Lordship will be able to judge whether there is any prospect of serving our country for the future, your opinion will govern me, and I shall be ready to contribute the little in my power to promote those measures you shall think best for our common interest, as you please to command.

Thomas Harley to the Earl of Oxford.

1720, July 14. London—I rejoice to hear your Lordship is so far recovered. I cannot endure to hear wise folks tell me the gout is a good thing, and one is happy that has it. I had rather be without it and the causes of it.

People here are in high joy for the rising of their own stocks, and the falling of those at Paris, yet I believe some are not well pleased to hear of the resentment of the people of Paris on the scarcity of specie, who broke Law's coach to pieces, and would have served him so too, had he not taken shelter in the Palais Royal, for which they cursed the Regent plentifully, and he must take care to be well guarded himself.

A. Lady Pye to Abigail Harley, at Eywood.

1720, July 23. Clifton—At last I've got leisure from my country affairs and neighbours to assure, dearest cousin, how great a vexation

my long silence gives me. I know you will be good and pardon me, it would tire you to relate the many, many letters I have had, resolved in London to return thanks for your last kind letter received there in answer to one I wrote, but could never compass it, being over hurried for one of my time and scarce ever right well, a constant cough and rheum; formerly the town air was most agreeable, and would quiet me if I chanced to get a bark in the country. I have reason to commend this air far beyond Derby or most places I know. We had most pleasant airy lodgings, and the satisfaction to find my friends had not forgot me, but daily did I pine at your absence. God knows when I may be so happy if ever likewise very unlucky to miss my Lord Oxford, who I think hath not of several years made such a stay in the country; am much obliged to him for his kind remembrance.

Your brother Auditor made me a visit at my first coming up, just before I left the town; I took leave of him and was so fortunate to find him at his chambers full of business, he showed me the map of Eywood, seemed a fine prospect from the house; likewise a noble plan of building that will be much for Lord Harley's advantage beyond Hanover Square, that way is a new town since I was last up, and most of my acquaintances lived there about, though I am still fond of the houses that look into St. James's Park, as Lord Kinnoull's lodgings and ours.

I think Lord Dupplin one of the finest youths I ever saw. My nephew Parker hath three fine boys at Westminster School. He hath made considerable in South Sea, all the conversation turned on that subject, tiresome at least to such as were not in, and now as much talked of in the country. I congratulated your brother Auditor, as I doubt not but I may all your family as to them should belong, for it was at first begun by Lord Oxford, now risen beyond what any could foresee. Sir Charles came not up to us till late in May, then shares were thought too high, and he had no notion of the thing. I found ways enough for my money or had been in the fashion. All Lord Ferrers' daughters by the first Lady have greatly advanced their fortunes. Lady Barbara, actually worth 90,000*l.*, I hear is inquiring for a purchase in Wales; it's a lucky time for those that must sell, One Mr. Gilbert, a gentleman near Derby, for 330*l.* (?) per annum, got near 14,000*l.*, a sorry house and no good situation. Naming Derby reminds me of a visit I design thither, 'tis near three years and many, to wish joy of their success, above 200,000*l.*, of which two families I know have half of that sum. Niece Gisborne's spouse a considerable gainer, she and her son just returned from the Bath, like there to have lost her little boy of a fever, when I see her will ask if she waited on Lady Harriet Harley. Her lord passed through Derby I heard lately. I hope my Lady received benefit by the Bath.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1720, August 2—There is again a fresh talk of a new Parliament, which has gained so much credit with some that interest is already making in several places; I must own my faith is not yet strong enough to believe it. Duke Wharton is again turned Tory, being disgusted at the Ministry for not making him Lord Lieutenant of Bucks. He has promised to be the friend of the Church and University, says his family have been too long enemies to both, and that

he will endeavour to make amends for what they did. This is his common talk in public companies. He has already promised to give 600*l.* to All Souls' College, and intends to come over to the University to have a Doctor of Laws degree conferred on him.

C. Lawton to [the Earl of Oxford].

1720, August 23—I must be the most ungrateful man living if I was not concerned for the health of my Lord Oxford. Your recovery is of too great importance to your friends and your country to be neglected. It is the duty of every man to take the best care he can to regain, when he is out of order, his health, but where a man is significant to the public, he ought, for the sake of that, to redouble his care, or he otherwise sins as well against social virtues as the law of self-preservation. And here, my Lord, let me tell you what I think you ought to do. You ought, if you can possibly bear the journey, to come up and consult the best physicians; for, unless the doctors in your country are, what I hear they are not, very able ones, they may mistake in stating your case, and then the physicians here may and must mistake in their prescriptions. Have I not often heard you mention the sagacity of Doctor Radcliffe? What he could find out by merely feeling the pulse? Part of his skill was from a natural genius, but his chief excellency proceeded from his multitude of patients, and the observations he made upon their different cases and constitutions. Now no country physician can have an opportunity to make so many observations, and, therefore, can never make those remarks which Doctor Mead and Doctor Freind, &c., daily do, and as for air, which perhaps some may think may cure almost without medicines, pray are not Hampstead, Kensington, &c., very good places for air, and yet they are in the reach of our best physicians, who will not, any of them, refuse to visit you there as often as you have occasion.

A. Bateman to Abigail Harley, at Eywood.

1720, August 25. London—South Sea is still the whole discourse of the great lamentation at the downfall of the bubbles. Yesterday there was a Jew's wedding, where all the nobility and gentry were invited, it was kept at a Hall in the city. His Royal Highness honoured the weddingers with his presence, his consort sent an excuse to the bride, not daring to venture in a crowd, she being with child, and hoped she would be soon in the same condition. So obliging a Princess has not often been heard of.

Edward Harley, junior, to his uncle, the [Earl of Oxford].

1720, September 27. Eywood—The letters by this post bringing the account of the great confusion that all the paper credit is falling into, and which I take to be but the prelude of one of the greatest convulsions that has ever befallen that city, I cannot but humbly suggest to your Lordship that surely at the time when these confusions are beginning it can no way be safe for you to be in London, and, therefore, would submit it to you whether you should not for a little

time suspend ordering the coach coming down for you. You being out of the way, hitherto, has certainly been a very happy providence, and if it pleases the divine goodness yet to spare this sinful nation, I hope you may be the instrument under the divine conduct.

At present everything seems so very gloomy, that every wise man would avoid having the least appearance of this ruin under his hand.

The stipulation with the Bank for subverting the Sword Blade Company is like to have the same effect as the Bank's formerly breaking Shepheard had, which brought a run upon themselves even at a time when their credit was at the highest. As things appear to me, I cannot see how people in London will have money to buy necessaries, what that will produce among all the handicraft people is easy to guess, and therefore the country, I think, at present is the only safe place.

All are well at Wimpole. Mr. Prior is gone down to try his interest at Cambridge.

THOMAS HARLEY to LORD HARLEY at Wimpole.

1720, October 4. London—You will easily imagine how uneasy I am to be hindered by some business from waiting on your Lordship, and to be here amidst a parcel of shipwrecked people, some new ones appearing every day, and what makes it worse they all confess their misfortune to be owing to their own folly. Lest you should not see the wise acts of a Court of resolution, I have troubled you with the enclosed. How could such fools expect to be better used? or, why deserve any redress?

Some of the merchants have advice from Aleppo by the way of Constantinople, that my cousin N[athaniel] Harley died of a fever the 17th of July.

THOMAS HARLEY to the EARL OF OXFORD, at Brampton Castle.

1720, October 4. London—One has so little to say from hence, but melancholy accounts of paper credit being sunk (except what is kept alive by the Bank), and of the falling of stocks to a degree that it has stunned the greatest part of people concerned in them, that makes it disagreeable to write, as it must needs be to read, but lest the enclosed should escape your view, I send as the most complete parcel of nonsense ever was seen.

I know not what to think of a report from Aleppo round about by way of Constantinople, of the death of my cousin N[athaniel] Harley, the 17th of July last. Certainly, some advice ought to have come directly, but this is in the merchants' letters, who care not whom they kill if they are saved alive.

[C. LAWTON to the EARL OF OXFORD].

1720, October 4. Northampton—I have often thought of waiting upon you some time this summer, but have been prevented by unforeseen accidents, and now I am afraid I shall not be able to go so far, and, therefore, give me leave to beg by this note, that you will hasten up to town before the Parliament meets, to give your helping hand to rescue the nation from the great and general calamity which threatens the ruin of so many families, amongst whom are several of your best friends. You

can, if anybody can recover the nation from the miseries into which it is plunged by hot-headed and bungling projectors, who have grafted upon the Earl of Oxford's reasonable scheme a monstrous and unaccountable—I don't know what to call it. His scheme seems to me to have been no more than desiring forbearance, upon his promise that there should [be] an immediate appropriation of such and such sinking funds, when they came in, to secure the principal, and a reliance upon the Parliament paying in the meantime from year to year the interest. All this could be understood, and was at that time as well for the benefit of the nation, as the creditors of it. But by what flights in arithmetic men could compute that one hundred was one thousand, I could not comprehend, and told many of yours and my friends that as the madness of the people ran it up, it would as madly run it down whenever the torrent of their imaginations turned the other way.

I have been too true a prophet, and not being able myself to contribute towards the resettling a matter of such consequence, I beg, I earnestly beg you will be in London before the Parliament meets. Your masterly genius and cool head can almost perform miracles, and I hope you will forgive an ungrateful nation, and exert all your ability. I know vast numbers who suffer don't deserve your compassion, but a great many of those who will be ruined were fast friends to you during all your adversity, and, therefore, they have a claim to your help, and for their sakes, and the sake of your sinking country come up. Could I speak oracles what I say would have no weight, but many even of your enemies have such an opinion of your judgment that, now the public is in such distress, good sense will be hearkened to when it comes from you. I don't design to flatter, but the necessity of the case extorts from me expressions wherewith I would not cloy you at another time.

[Thomas Harley] to Lord Harley, at Wimpole.

1720, October 18. London—Affairs in the city are not much revived, that work remains till the King comes, for him to perform.

I had an account last night that my Lord Oxford is very much recovered, the last cold has carried off the humours that formerly disturbed his health. It appeared like the small-pox.

Duppa, the attorney of Bucknel, died last week, very rich. I doubt he will have a difficult task to answer there for his ways of acquiring wealth.

Yesterday, a comical thing happened. A good many annuitants and such like met at a hall in the city, to consider of their affairs. Billers, one of the Sheriffs came in, read the act, and dispersed them. Budgel, who was in the chair, ran away first, and the rest soon followed.

Are not the free-born yelpers rightly served?

T. W[innington?] to [the Earl of Oxford].

1720, October 18. London—I was to enquire for your Lordship at your brother's, in Lincoln's Inn, and to my very great wonder was told you were in the country. Will the recent events let you tamely see your country ruined by those South Sea villains, and not give your assistance to bring them to public justice? Not their blood, but their Judas money (I mean) to pay the public debts.

This was not all I had to say to your Lordship. I am told that you, or your son, which is the same thing, espouse Mr. Prior's interest at Cambridge. I can tell you it will be to no purpose. He will (I verily believe, and have reasons for it) lose the election if he stands, and you had better employ your interest for an honest Tory, Mr. Annesley, and I think an honest Englishman too. I am sure my father thought him so, and your Lordship too, or I should not have written you what I did out of Scotland. Had you then trusted me in my own way, I really believe I had saved you all the trouble of your impeachment, and my country a great deal of blood and treasure, as well as their honour too, and yet I should have scorned to have asked you anything for myself, or taken it though offered.

If you consider without passion my thoughts as to the election at Cambridge, I flatter myself you will come into my sentiments. If you do or do not, all the favour I beg is that it may not be known that I espouse Mr. Annesley's interest so warmly, for then I cannot serve him so effectually.

F[RANCIS] WILLOUGHBY to [LORD HARLEY].

1720, October 19. Wollaton—Being prevailed upon by my friends to begin my application for the county against the next election my first must be to your Lordship, who have so great a command in it. If I can obtain the honour of your assistance, I am in hopes the expense and industry of our adversaries will prove ineffectual. The sooner the orders in my favour are sent to your agents, the more influence they will have.

[THOMAS HARLEY] to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1720, November 1. London—The Viscomte (as he calls himself) was with me this morning, and is to show me a house the latter end of the week where Lady Suffolk lived; but I ventured to call there to-day. It is in Gerrard Street, and backward looks into the garden behind Leicester House. It is a large convenient house, six rooms on a floor, in pretty good repair. The term is five years and a half at Christmas, for which they expect 200*l.* a year, or 120*l.* rent, and a fine equal to 80*l.* a year. The reversion belongs to Shales, the goldsmith. There are no stables belonging to it.

SIR H[UNGERFORD] HOSKYNS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1720, November 14. London—Being assured a new Parliament will be called next summer, and being countenanced by the Duke of Chandos to offer himself as a candidate for the county [of Hereford or Radnor?] begs Lord Oxford's interest likewise.

DR. RICHARD MEAD to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1720, November 15. Ormond Street—Is pleased his Lordship is better. Prescribes manna with a little plague water as a purge, asses' milk every morning, and thirty grains of Gassia's powder every night.

[Thomas Harley to the Earl of Oxford.]

1720, November 19. London—The great transaction now is to bring the Bank into measures to assist in supporting and raising the South Sea, which if they do not, it may be worse for them, for they must not trifle with the ministry, who are bent on restoring credit, and will beat down Bank, or Walpole, or anything else that hinders so good a work.

There is a notion of restoring the Crown to the free exercise of the prerogative as to continuing and dissolving parliaments as before the Triennial Act.

W. Bromley to the Earl of Oxford.

1720, November 22—I have the honour to think of the present state of affairs as your Lordship does, and the good fortune not to be much concerned in it. I submitted some annuities, and probably shall be no loser by them, but let that be as it will, I hope I shall always prefer the public before my own private interest. I was told of vast wealth certainly to be got in Exchange Alley, and some friends were almost angry with me, because I would not come to town to share in it, but I could not think it would become me, who had attended little during the session of Parliament, to attend stock-jobbing afterwards.

There never was such an universal confusion and distraction as at this time, many are ruined by their boundless avarice, the wealth of the kingdom is drained by foreigners, and its trade totally neglected, which involves the innocent with the guilty in the common calamity, and joins all in the clamour and discontents. Nothing less than your Lordship's genius and abilities can extricate us out of these difficulties, and prevent a relapse, which must be fatal.

I hear Aislabie will be made a peer, which may be necessary to screen him from just indignation for his scandalous conduct.

[Thomas Harley] to the Earl of Oxford, Brampton Castle.

1720, November 26. London—The Parliament is prorogued to the eighth of December, by which time it is to be hoped projects will be ripened for restoring credit, and raising stocks. In the meantime, money is damnable scarce. The common cant is that it is happy for us France is undone. At the same time the French are such impudent rogues as to say we are undone, and though the common people in France are beggars, yet the Regent has forty or fifty milions of specie in Bank.

The town is full of members from all parts.

[Thomas Harley] to Lord Harley, at Wimpole.

1720, November 29. London—What you mention of Wa[lpol]e is reported here, but I do not think things are gone that length. He must do something next session to merit, &c., and if he watches an opportunity to distress the Ministry, they may justly demolish him.

The scheme talked of for restoring credit is to give a share of South Sea to the Bank and East India Company, namely, nine millions to each, the South Sea to keep the rest (for a load that would break the back of one mule may be light on the backs of three), then twenty shillings each transfer, to be added to the fund, with some privileges to the Companies, as a longer term to the Bank and the like, and money to be at three per cent. interest.

[Thomas Harley] to Lord Harley, at Wimpole.

1720, December 3. London—Yesterday, a general Court of the East India Company met to consider the proposal for taking nine millions of South Sea Stock, gave power to their directors to treat, but not to conclude anything without acquainting the general Court. Some say this cannot be completed so soon as the 8th inst., consequently that the Parliament will be put off till after the holidays. Others say they must open the session on the day appointed.

The much boasted freedom of the press extends only to free-thinkers, pantheisticons and the like, but not to memorials and authentic acts of what passes in the world in which every man's interest is concerned.

[The Earl of Oxford to Charlwood Lawton.]

1720, December 6. Brampton—You are very kind in letting me hear from you. I have received but three letters from you unanswered, each of them full of your true and ancient friendship. I am thus particular because we are under a stricter management for letters that go from hence, than those that come from you. Above, I suppose it is not worth their while to look into the letters which come down, but here we are under that discipline that even our letters are carried to the Provincial of this country, and left to his disposal after opened to send or no. The severest reflection those creatures can make upon me is to think I would put anything in my letters that would gratify their curiosity, but it gives me a good deal of trouble that when my servant M—— came down he brought me word he had received no letter to yourself nor to one enclosed from your friend, Mr. M. about his peerage, the like fate had that to the Duke of Buckingham and some others enclosed in the same packet. Since I have been ill (which I hope will excuse my not writing to you with my own hand), I have received one in most obliging expressions from his Grace, which I will not presume to answer till I can tell him with my own hand how much I am his servant and the honour and great esteem I have for his family. Cowdall brought me yesterday your third letter, for which you are desired to receive both my wife's and my thanks, and beg the continuance of your friendship. The power you have over me will appear by my sending you what occurs to me by reason of the present complaints, and in truth a sick person is as proper to right the state of a confused nation as any one else, considering I have not the same distemper.

I am much concerned for the public, but particularly if the misfortune has fallen upon any I have reason to wish well to, some are involved in it whether they will or no, others are infected by the common contagion, all have been sufficiently warned that the danger was near and inevitable, the sole hope they could venture upon was there would be still somebody more credulous than themselves, and, therefore, they should be able to shift off their rotten ware to some greater believer.

To remind anyone that they have been foretold of their danger without offering a remedy is upbraiding and useless. To say nothing therefore upon so common a subject of conversation may deserve the remarks you have mentioned, and to offer a remedy to a patient who can neither bear the disease nor the medicine is lost labour; and in such a jumble ["medley" *written over*] of jarring interests, boundless avarice, necessitous clamours, enterprising quacks, it must and will

create confusion, and it must be a head better than mine, who can pretend to talk reasonably upon so perplexed a subject.

However, thus far one may safely venture to consider the following particulars.

1. The fate of the S.S. before the engraftment. *(Unfinished.)*

Draft or copy.

NEWS LETTER.

1720, December 8—The King's speech contains in substance much the same with what is printed in "The Evening Post." I endeavoured to have got it from the printing-house to have sent your Lordship by this post, but could not. They tell me there it will not be ready for the secretary's office till twelve o'clock or after.

In the House of Commons there have been this day several very severe speeches, made against the directors of the South Sea. That, and some other debates arising in the House as to the manner and form of returning his Majesty's thanks for his speech kept the House sitting till between six and seven, and upon a division, voted an address of thanks to his Majesty in their own words—two hundred and sixty-one against one hundred and three, and then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning.

Mr. Shippen told the House this Parliament began with a secret committee, and he believed it would end with one.

[THOMAS HARLEY] to LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole.

1720, December 10. London—The town is left in suspense about the scheme for stock-mending till next Thursday, which day was proposed yesterday by Walpole. He did not open what is in the project, but negatively that bargains were not to be dissolved, but left to the law, and that no new tax was to be laid to help the stock.

It is said the dividend is to be sixteen per cent., but there are so many disbelievers that South Sea is sold at one hundred and fifty. In a short time the books will be shut, then stock may rise in denomination, for people will not trust one another so much as to sell for time.

NEWS LETTER.

1720, December 13—Yesterday, Mr. Pitt renewed his Saturday's proposition, and was seconded by Lords Molesworth, Nevil, &c., who insisted to have the Directors of the South Sea, and the Managers and Commissioners nominated by the Lords of Treasury, according to Act of Parliament to an account. Many made warm speeches full of complaints. The Master of the Rolls, Mr. Spencer Cowper, Mr. Smith, teller, did say much. Mr. Spencer Cowper said he deemed the Directors to be bankrupts, and that in the eye of the law they were so, or if not, they ought to be declared so by the Parliament. Others spoke to the same tune. Mr. Craggs at first endeavoured to moderate them, and was for their first applying themselves to find out a remedy for the sinking credit, and then to make inquisition into causes, &c. He added if they took another method he could not vote or concur. Mr. Walpole said some time after, that he had a scheme to propose on Thursday, but in the temper they were in it would be impracticable. He added

that their going on in that strain might have bad consequences—that it would hurt the Government more than an army could do—that it might reflect on, &c. There were none spoke for the Court, but these two and Mr. Young, and what they said was not for excusing the Directors, or not bringing them to condign punishment, but only for waiting the proper time after measures taken for restoring the public credit.

None of the Tories spoke except Mr. Freeman and Mr. Cross, who said little. Mr. Horace Walpole spoke, concluding that the South Sea scheme was begun with a cheat, carried on by fraud and villany, and ended in misery, or to this purpose. Mr. Clayton and Mr. Sloper spoke. The former said he knew Mr. Walpole's scheme, and that it could not answer—that others had schemes, and that he himself had one. Mr. Sloper put the question for ordering the Directors to bring into the House their accounts of all they had done, and the Managers to bring in all matters done by them, and all the Treasury orders. The Court party made no opposition, and so it passed without a division, as it is in this day's votes of the House. Mr. Palmer made a short speech. Mr. Hutcheson is not to speak till Thursday. He desired Mr. Walpole to let him see his scheme, otherwise he would desire on Thursday time to consider it, and Mr. Walpole shewed it to him. There were very hard names given to the Directors by many of the speakers, and there appeared great heat in their discourses.

On Thursday last, Mr. Milner reflected in his speech on three or four of the Directors, whom he said he could name, but named only Mr. Gibbons, who he said gave money for refusals of stock in order to raise the price, and sold his own. Mr. Tinley, son-in-law to Mr. George Pitt, lost ten thousand pounds in Wilson the Banker's hands. Lord Craven is like to be married to Tinley's daughter, his only child.

There are four Directors members of the House, namely, Sawbridge, Chaplain, Eyles, and Sir Theodore Jansen. None of them have appeared in the House except Jansen, and the footmen will not allow his servants to come up the stairs to the House.

It was said yesterday that the House of Lords would this day be upon the South Sea affair and public credit.

Talbot, second son of the Bishop of Sarum, is dead; he preached ordinarily at the Rolls.

Doctor Swift is in tribulation for somewhat writ about the last year's proceedings, in this [year?], against the Irish Parliament, for which a printer is taken up, and he suspected to be the author.

[Thomas Harley] to Lord Harley, at Wimpole.

1720, December 15. London—Much was expected to-day from a scheme to restore credit, but Walpole declared that till the House determined whether the annuitants should be held to their subscriptions or not, no perfect project can be offered, and in order to come to a resolution therein, the debate is adjourned till Monday next, and the South Sea are ordered to bring lists of their subscriptions and loans.

[Thomas Harley to Lord Harley.]

1720, December 16. London—I have not met with anything to add to what I troubled you with last night, but that the members generally agree not to release the annuitants from their subscription,

though, at the price of one hundred and fifty South Sea Stock, they will not have above seven shillings for twenty, which is a scurvy way of treating the supporters of revolution principles.

It is said Law, drawing money out of Middleton's hand, occasioned his breaking, I hope you lost nothing by him; one can depend on nothing now but specie.

Law is certainly gone from Paris, but it is not known where. He was instrumental in driving Alberoni from Madrid.

[THOMAS HARLEY] to LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole.

1720, December 20. London—Yesterday, the Commons in a Committee on credit, Walpole moved—that the proprietors of subscriptions redeemable and unredeemable, and all other contracts with the South Sea should continue in the condition they now are, unless mitigated to the several proprietors by a general Court or discharged of their several contracts by a due course of law—Yeas, 267; Noes, 117. This being the foundation for restoring credit, I trouble you with it. Most of the Tories voted with the Court for the question, though the same day they could not obtain the lessening any part of the expense of the army.

[THOMAS HARLEY] to LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole.

1720, December 22. London—The scheme for restoring credit has been opened in the House (as I formerly mentioned it) which met with little opposition, and yet the stock is lower than it was. The members are as docile as one would wish, but when stock comes to be put in the balance against specie, there is not enough of this commodity to carry on jobbing to the height it was in the late age of paper.

The owners of stock and subscriptions complain, but the annuitants cry out aloud.

Among the advantages to be given to the South Sea, they are to have Nova Scotia, from whence naval stores are to come. Mr. Secretary Craggs said in the House, if Law had concluded his bargain with the Czar for all the produce of Muscovy, we must have been supplied from Arcadie. They are likewise to have some pretty island in those parts, which is not yet peopled, and, therefore, more valuable there being no one to hinder the planting right principles.

Mr. Bromley is gone into the country, and there may be ten Tories remaining who are not stock-jobbers.

MATTHEW PRIOR to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1720, December 23. Wimpole—I do not think myself more sensibly obliged to Lord Harley for any favour I have lately received from him, than for the news he gives me of your being better as to your health, and to those wishes which he daily makes with the piety of an excellent son. I know you will give me leave to add mine, with the sincerity of a faithful friend. I have almost wintered here, and indeed have been detained for a month past by an indisposition that kept me within doors, which was the only trouble I found from the illness, for your son has treated me with kindness, which prevented my asking anything, and with a freedom, which made me think I was in Duke Street, at Prior's own palace. I am going thither in three or four

days, and shall not stir from thence till either you come towards Lincoln's Inn or Lord Harley to Dover Street, for I am frightened with the roaring of the South Sea, and tired with the madness of the people. I have stayed here long enough to see the popular folly of our neighbouring University, though I have not been there since I last had the honour to write to your Lordship, for where a man has not been kindly treated, he may easily become troublesome. The farce acted there had just the same exit which you foretold. An[nesly] was beaten out of the pit, ill-supported by his new acquired friends, and everybody denying that they had any hand in bringing him down; my own college, a little ashamed of the usage they gave their own fellow, whose friendship they have and may yet further have occasion for, but pass we that; Audley next desisting after having been at London to try how he and An[nesly] might cobble up matters, so that Willoughby has the advantage of Finch by thirty; and since *Clause* is King, the doctors say, like the beggars in the play, who did not wish him so? This is the world, my Lord, and the same tricks are played in courts and camps, universities and hospitals, and so men act and have acted, for the proof which your Lordship and your humble servant need not read much history. There are some exceptions to this rule, but I think I might name them all without writing to the bottom of the page; but I am tired with the thought, and will quit it for a pleasanter which is that of telling you we are all in perfect good health. My Lord, Yours, Matthew.

Postcript.—

Fame counting thy books, my dear Harley, shall tell,
No man had so many, who knew them so well.

Being a very laborious poet, I made these two verses in a morning in the library, and was never in my life better pleased with my own work than to hear little Mademoiselle Harley repeat them the next morning with the prettiest tone and manner imaginable. God bless that dear child, the excellent good woman her mother, and all of us, and keep us from the foul fiend! Once more, my Lord, adieu.

DR. W. STRATFORD to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1720, December 24—I am very sorry to find your Lordship recovers so slowly. As much as we wish you, for your own sake, in town, we hope you will not attempt a journey till you have strength enough to bear it without danger. Were it possible even for you to help your country at this time, no service you could do would be an equivalent to it at the hazard of a relapse. It must be owned indeed that the present difficulty is *Dignus tanto vindice nodus*, but I am afraid it will prove a Gordian one, that must be cut, and not untied. I hear the good Bishop of Rochester begins to think again that the present powers cannot stand, and is resolved to be warm once more in a cause he lately thought desperate and resolved to have dropped. He is very untractable to his friend, Lord Harcourt. That noble Lord is wholly for healing measures, and for pouring in only balm and oil to our wounds. No one doubts but his Lordship has his reasons for his great humanity.

[THOMAS HARLEY] to LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole.

1720, December 24. London—In the House of Commons the supply is finished, and as soon as the India Company and Bank shall have

agreed to the new scheme, a bill is to be pushed on immediately, which you will conclude implies a short session, and no time for Jekyll's vindictive justice. The three shillings on land is voted. The Patriots grumbled, and Freeman begged for sixpence to be abated, which could not be granted. Law was bid to sell his lands in France (which are considerable), he agreed, and then they paid him with his own bank bills. The Bard (Prior?) will take this for a proof they have no need of Law, there being people as fine as himself; where he goes from Brussels is not known.

[THOMAS HARLEY] to the EARL OF OXFORD, at Brampton Castle.

1720, December 31—I am extremely pleased with a letter of the 24, writ with your own hand. My epistles are short, if they were longer it would be expatiating on folly, knavery, and the misery of innocent people; a very disagreeable subject.

The East Company having adjourned to some day next week without coming to a resolution on the great scheme, the House of Commons thought fit to adjourn likewise to Wednesday next.

I suppose the Auditor will not stand a call of the House for fear of being sent for. I wish Doctor Mead had any messengers who might find the same compliance.

Shippen made a smart speech last Thursday, and moved for the reasons of the declaration of a dividend of fifty per cent., and the subscription at one thousand (as you see in the votes), which raised again the drooping spirit of enquiry.

[THOMAS HARLEY] to LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole.

1720-21, January 4. London—The Commons have been upon the Directors of the South Sea to-day with more warmth than at any time and have ordered a bill to hinder the Directors or their clerks from going away or alienating their estates during a twelvemonth, and to the end of next session of Parliament. Also they have ordered a Committee to inspect the management of the South Sea, to consist of thirteen, and to be elected by ballot next Friday.

EDWARD HARLEY, the Auditor, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1720-21, January 11—Day and night, summer and winter, are not more different than the state of affairs here from the time of my leaving the town to this. Then nothing but a boundless insolence in their supposed wealth, now nothing appears but dejection, lamentations, and confusion. Many of the first rank wounded in their estates beyond retrieve. Lord Harcourt has sold out none. This is the condition of very many in both Houses, where everyone is grasping at anything that is thought a salve for his own sore. Though the Court lost their list upon the ballot for a secret committee to roast South Sea Directory, yet Mr. Walpole's scheme was carried yesterday after a long debate by a great majority; opposed and spoken against by the Master of the Rolls, Mr. Smith, Hutcheson, Sloper, Pitt, Shippen, &c. Thus Bank, India, and South Sea Companies are now put on

one bottom, and must sink or swim together, but figures are come in fashion again in the city, and, therefore, they presume to say that this will be a scheme for two months' stock-jobbing, and then all sink together.

Lord Su[nderland], it is said will hold his ground, yesterday bid defiance to any charge against him, and concluded in a motion that all the directors be examined at the Bar of the House of Lords.

It is said the Spanish Ambassador demands Gibraltar, Port Mahon, six hundred thousand for the damage of their fleet. This is very much concealed.

Mr. Bromley is in town. There is yet no appearance of saving a wicked sinking, everyone is for his own gain.

[Lord Harley to the Earl of Oxford.]

1720-21, January 17. Dover Street—I am not certain how agreeable this letter may be to your Lordship in what I am just going to say, that there is a general desire of all people that you should be in town, and it is said that you are prevailed upon to stay in the country, which is the reason of your long stay there and not your illness. To say you are not able yet to venture out of your chamber, that you have not yet put off your night-gown, and are therefore not fit to undertake such a journey at this season, it is talking to the winds and waves. They know my Lord is able to come if he pleases, he is well but not willing being over persuaded to stay where he is, as idle as this must seem it is very general, and I beg pardon for writing it.

Lord Bingley has got a great deal, but he says he is not happy with it since so many are undone. *Credat Judæus*, but what concerns him the most of all is that the "morals of the nation seem to be quite corrupted."

Lord Dartmouth in all ready money and plate gone. They say the noble Chandos is reduced to be three days in borrowing eight hundred pounds.

My Lord, I have sent you two pamphlets said to be wrote by Swift, and I believe them to be so. There are some things in the letter which I believe will please you, therefore, I send it. I have also sent you two epitaphs and an epigram, the epitaph upon France, and the epigram I beg you will not let a copy go. You may easily guess the author.

I thank God we are all very well. Your daughter sends her humble duty to you as does Peggy.

Your Lordship will have better accounts than I can give you of the proceedings at the House of Lords and St. Stephen's, for I have had the good fortune not to have been once there since I came to town. Your Lordship has all the prints, the London Journal has been most in fashion.

I do most heartily wish you in town, for your health's sake (to be near Dr. Mead), which I think is of too great value to be trusted to such distant prescriptions; and that I may have the happiness to see you, but not for any of the wise reasons that some are so very desirous and importunate for you to be in town, they have been long at sea, and stand in great need of a good pilot, and when they are safe on shore hang the pilot.

[Edward Harley, the Auditor] to the Earl of Oxford.

1720-21, February 16th. London—This day Mr. Brodrick, Chairman of the Secret Committee, made his report, which took up four hours in the reading at the bar and the table. It discloses the greatest scene of corruption and villany that ever was plotted in any civilized nation, wherein many members of both houses are concerned, the principal Ministers of State named, and several ladies at Court, who have had large shares in this iniquity. Mr. Aislaby, Mr. Craggs, Mr. Charles Stanhope in trust for others, appeared to be the principal actors, to whom the Directors, Mr. Knight, and the Swordblade Company have been obsequious managers in their respective stations.

After reading the report, Mr. Robert Pitt, seconded by Mr. Luttwich, proposed printing the report. This was opposed by all the Court party, who had their proceedings upon the former Committee of Secrecy turned upon them. After some hours' debate, this motion was dropped, and the House resolved to proceed upon the report upon Saturday. What will be the event is pretty difficult to guess, when there are so many different views and parties. If the House pursues the game before them with any steadiness, the Lem Knight* is likely to be pickled in Southsea brina. His name is often mentioned in the report, as a great negociator in these affairs. While these things are transacting paper credit languishes with the wounds it has received in the house of its friends. Land-tax tallies, and Navy Bills are come to ten per cent. discount. All credit in trade is stopped, and the Exchange in London to Amsterdam, Paris, Lyons, Genoa, Venice, and Leghorn. The orders upon the Quarantine Bill are so severe that the Turkey Company have sent an express to their factories, to keep all their ships upon demurrage in Turkey, till they are assured that their effects shall not be burnt upon their return. This is occasioned by an order for burning a ship come from Cyprus with all her cargo; what effect this will have upon the clothing trade is easy to guess.

Secretary Craggs died this morning.

There are several remonstrances come from several parts of the county of Hereford against their Lord Lieutenant to Mr. Westphalin and others.

Edward Harley to [the Earl of Oxford].

1720-21, February 17—By yesterday's post I sent an account of what passed in the House of Commons upon the report of the Secret Committee. Aislaby will be given up, and by bill put upon the same foot as the Directors. How far Walpole, who now leads the House, will permit his followers there to sink under their corruption is very uncertain, but Caswall will in all likelihood be expelled, he is named several times in the report. If your Lordship approve Lord Harley's standing, it is of consequence to secure it early. Captain Powel has had an intimation by letter, and so has Mr. Price here.

The struggle is whether Lord Sunderland shall keep his ground. Your old friend Lord Harcourt is ready to assist in any scheme that will heal his South Sea wounds. Lord Carleton has been very much importuned to come into the service, some say he has complied, but

* Sir George Caswall, M.P. for Leominster.

this is not certain. I was yesterday with Lord Trevor, who gives the nation up for lost, will not come to the House of Lords, and has refused the Great Seal. All is at present in jumble and confusion. Most officers of the army are plunged in the South Sea scheme, and all credit and trade stagnated. He that does not see the just hand of heaven in these things is very blind. While blasphemy and infidelity prevail, what can we expect but greater judgments? Lord Nottingham brought me his book which springs from what he says was your clause. He is endeavouring to bring some of the Bishops into a Bill to declare that the nation is yet Christian.

Mr. Bromley comes to the House, but does not speak. Sir William Wyndham is pickled in South Sea, and some say in a corrupt manner.

[Thomas Harley to the Earl of Oxford.]

1720-21, February 17. London—The deaths of Stanhope and Craggs have much perplexed Lord Sunderland. Walpole is to have the Treasury and choose his own creatures. And Lord Townshend will have Methuen in Craggs' place. It is said Lord Sunderland has prevailed with Lord Carleton to be President, and that Cowper is to have the great Seal. Walpole will try to bring Chandos into something.

The report of the Secret Committee made yesterday lays open Lord Sunderland for taking 40,000*l.* of South Sea from Knight; the Duchess of Munster 10 or 12,000*l.*; Madame Platen, who is at Hanover, 10,000*l.* Munster's nieces, 5,000*l.* each. Aslabie a vast deal in several shapes, Charles Stanhope, 50,000*l.*; Caswall, the sheriff, for negotiating bribery by the Sword Blade Company.

Young Pitt and Lutwich moved to print the report immediately, which was opposed by Walpole and his crew; it ended in taking the report into consideration to-morrow.

Walpole undertakes to screen Sunderland, and the German ladies, and to let Aslabie and the rest take their chance.

The Scheme Bill goes on though no one thinks it will raise credit, but it will unite the interest of three great companies, and J. Ward, Gold Delme and Heathcote are associated with Walpole to govern the three companies, which govern the city, and so on.

Coningsby makes sad work with his cases and breaches of privilege. The Lords have given him a day, but seem well-disposed to censure him instead of relieving. Lord Wharton complained of a scandalous libel against the Lord Chancellor and Government, under the name of "Coningsby's Case," desired the authors might be punished, but Coningsby started up, and said it was all his own, and published by his order.

Cadogan is in an ill state of health. Marlborough affects appearing at the House of Lords, looks well, but has been once surprised there with a fit of crying.

Lord Trevor has not been at the House, and I question if he will like them well enough to come at all this session, he is quite off with Harcourt and the Bishop.

Lord Mansell is come to town very well.

[Lord Harley] to the Earl of Oxford.

1720-21, February 18—The sudden death of Stanhope was a very sensible blow to Lord Sunderland, and was so visible that on the

Tuesday, Lord Townshend had the seals delivered to him. This was the point Sunderland thought to manage and keep off, but his chief support being cut off he was forced to yield to that, as well as to give up the Treasury to Walpole, who is to be Chancellor and First Commissioner. He does in a manner now execute these offices, but will not take them in form till the Session be over.

The death of Craggs is not any matter one way or other, because he was determined to be laid by. It is said with great confidence that though Sunderland is forced to submit to these things, yet he will have his party in the Ministry which he is now endeavouring to set up, by making, if he can prevail upon him to accept, Carleton, President, and to make another Secretary of State, in whom he can confide. But the other party say he has no power, and to show it they will make Cowper Chancellor, by which they design to make it appear to the world that Sunderland is nobody.

Cowper will certainly come in. Trevor has been tried by all the ways to be brought in, offered the great seal, his old place, but he has absolutely refused, he has not been at the House all this session nor will not come, as he told me, except he saw something proposed to be done that would be a real service to the nation, which he does not think the examinations by the Lords will prove to be.

Poor blind Harcourt stands ready at the pool for the good angel to move the waters, but I believe he will find nobody to help him in.

Raymond was talked of, but I believe there is nothing that way now. If Sunderland had kept up his head perhaps there would have been a better Chancellor, worse could not be. Sunderland thinks he has still great interest with the King and Madame Munster. We shall see what they will do with the report this day, it is a very heavy charge upon the ministry, but I fancy cold water is thrown upon it. The women are named, Aislabie very deep; never was such a set of felons ever got togther. The new Directors are going to play the same game if they can.

The great debauch which killed Stanhope and Craggs was at the Duke of Newcastle's. They drank excessively of New Tokay, Champagne, Visney and Barba Water, thirteen hours as it is said.

I have sent your Lordship a collection of very odd books, two are by Toland; the "Pantheisticon" is not published, at the end is written a prayer, but Toland is not the composer. The two sermons are somewhat odd, but dull.

Lord Nottingham's book is much cried up by those who call themselves orthodox.

It is certain that Stanhope was to have been declared General if he had lived four days longer. Cadogan is laid aside, is ill of a sore leg.

[Viscountess Dupplin] to her aunt, Abigail Harley.

1720-21, March 4. Whitehall—There is a famous man in town called now a doctor, who undertakes to cure the small-pox a new way; I believe you may have heard of him by the name of Captain Dover. He came home with the *Agripulca* ship in the Queen's time. His method for the aforesaid distemper is quicksilver and the cold bath. At this time he has under his care Lady Louisa Berkeley; her grandmother, the Duchess of Richmond, dismissed Doctor Chamberlain, and sent for this famous man. Lady Mildred Hotham turned off Mead and Hulst, and sent for him to her daughter, Mrs. Corbett.

The Duchess of Devonshire turned off Mead and Freind, and sent for him to Lady Rachel Manners. None of these ladies were given over by the physicians, which amazes all reasonable people that they should be put into such a quack's hands. I believe next post I may send you word that they are dead, I could not hear to-day that they were. I heard Mrs. Corbett had lost the sight of her eyes, not in the manner others do in the small-pox, for the first thing Dover does is to strike it all in, but she is irrecoverably blind.

[Edward Harley to Lord Harley.]

1720-21, March 6—Lord Harcourt is once more disposed to take ground in your Square, and will undertake immediately to build his house, but absolutely insists upon the inheritance at a ground rent without which he will not proceed. If I might offer my opinion he should be complied with, for his taking ground and beginning building will by midsummer fill the greatest part of the ground; if it be baulked this spring, I doubt it will not be retrievable.

I have had a long conference with Duke Chandos, he positively says he will begin building immediately if he may be accommodated with more ground backward, and I believe may be brought to take all the ground in Chandos Street. Were these two matters settled I think all the difficulties of setting the whole ground would be over. This is your Mississipi, and, therefore, the present crisis not to be neglected, what directions you give me shall be punctually observed, but let me know what I am to say to these Lords without delay.

[Edward Harley to the Earl of Oxford.]

1720-21, March 7—Your Lordship's observation on public affairs is most just, but infidelity and wickedness have blinded men that will not see the hand that corrects them.

The House of Lords sat late on Saturday upon the examination of Sir J[ohn] Blunt, who having been under examination of the Secret Committee of the Commons refused to be sworn, which the Court party pressed much, but was opposed by the other side. Duke Wharton by his debates raised the Lord Stanhope's passion to a great height, was not very well that night, and next day about eight in the evening died. It is said he was the next day to be declared Generalissimo. This seems to make way for a total change in the Ministry. Mr. Walpole's new scheme bill was committed by a great majority.

Some say the Secret Committee have drawn great discovery from B[lunt], and that the report will be made this week.

[W. Thomas to the Earl of Oxford.]

1720-21, March 10—The charge against Sir G. Caswall came on to-day in the House of Commons. About seven they came to a division upon a question of fact, moved by Lord Molesworth, relating to fifty thousand pounds stock transferred by the South Sea Company to Caswall and partners. After some debate, wherein very few spoke in his behalf, the House divided, Yeas, 227, Noes, 97. This question being carried by so great a majority, the House came to several other resolutions upon matter of fact, and then resolved

to expel Sir Geo. Caswall, and committed him to the Tower, and ordered a Bill to subject the estates of Caswall, Turner, and Sawbridge to make good to the South Sea Company the value of the said stock, and then the House adjourned to Monday.

The persons who spoke in behalf of Sir Geo. Caswall, are the Master of the Rolls (who had some doubts upon him with relation to the first question), Mr. Mynshull, Mr. Neville, Mr. Plummer, and Mr. Tuffnell. Mr. Smith, with a great deal of warmth, answered the Master of the Rolls, but Mr. Walpole did not speak in the debate.

Barrington offered several times to speak, but the House would not hear him, the resentment without doors ever since the acquittal of Stanhope has very much contributed to carry matters to this height.

Some additions, chiefly on private matters, in Edward Harley's handwriting.

[W. Thomas to the Earl of Oxford.]

1720-21, March 11—This day has furnished Lord Con[ingsby] with a very disagreeable fellow prisoner; he has apprehended it for some days, and was very much out of humour to think so mean a person should be sent thither, a place designed for persons of the highest quality. Though he had made resolution to rot there rather than submit to ask pardon of that attorney, the Chancellor, yet we are told now he will do even that, rather than keep such company in the Tower.

Perhaps your Lordship has heard of his condemning two of his servants to ride the wooden horse. He sent for a sergeant to put the sentence into execution, and gave him five pounds to do it, but the sergeant upon consulting his officer thought fit to forbear the execution and keep the money. I should not have troubled your Lordship with these trifles, but I am staying for Mr. Mynat to take the letters, and therefore now he is come, I trouble your Lordship no further.

What has facilitated the affair of this day was a report that C——l had been with the K. last night, and that the money was for the Court that he was concerned in.

[Edward Harley to the Earl of Oxford.]

1720-21, March 16—By the notes you see the acquittal of the Lord Sunderland, yeas 173, noes 233. Sir J. Jekyll proposed the question with some personal reflections. Sir Thomas Hanmer spoke very well. Mr. Walpole and all his friends divided against the question. It was intended to-morrow to bring on the affair of old Mr. Craggs, but it is said to-day he is struck with an apoplexy, and is dying.

By Mr. Price's letter I find the town of Leominster is in a great embroil. Had I apprehended this I should have dissuaded Lord Harley to have permitted his name to be made use of. Your Lordship will be best able to judge by circumstances whether it is best to stand a poll or to accommodate it. Duke Chandos has been with me, and says he will not meddle in it for Mr. Bateman.

[Edward Harley, junior] to his aunt, Abigail Harley.

1720-21, March 19—I suppose you have before this heard the majority by which Lord S[underland] got clear, a 172 was a great

number against a Prime Minister. Sir T. Hanmer distinguished himself upon this occasion by an admirable speech, but no one was so warm and inveterate as Jekyll. W[alpo]le defended him, upon which Shippen severely put him in mind of what he had said last year against the same great person. It is remarkable that the P[rin]ce was in the gallery all the while, and that all his people voted against Sunderland. Old C[rag]gs swore point blank that he never received the 50,000*l*. It is said that this with the fear of appearing before the H[ouse] tempted him to dispatch himself by a large dose of opium.

Ruff's appeal is to be heard before the Lords on Tuesday. Bob has many friends, and all hearty and active, and though Ruff by snivelling and cringing to Lord S[underland] has got him to prevail with the C[hancel]lor to speak against his own order, yet if they can raise a debate they do not doubt of success. I heartily wish my old master a complete victory. To divert you, I have enclosed a translation of the Duke of Buckinghamshire's epitaph by an unknown hand; the ridicule is well enough.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY.

1721, March 28—Yesterday, the Commons received an answer from the King, relating to Mr. Knight; the King's letter to the Emperor, the Emperor's answer, Townshend's letter to Zinzendorf, and his answer, were all read to them; and they all give but little encouragement to expect Knight. The Emperor says he must protect the States and liberties of Brabant, but will endeavour to prevail on them to give him up. Yea, quoth the Emperor, but not to-day. Upon this Hutchinson moved that Knight should be pardoned, was seconded by the Attorney-General, who added, and to have his estate, but Jekyll sounded a retreat, and another day is appointed to consider Knight's affairs. A large trunk of his papers was sent down from the Lords, which are ordered to be perused by a Committee (not the Secret). The letter in the last "London Journal" makes much noise, it is wrote with good sense and great spirit. A very good advertisement is published in yesterday's "Daily Post," which is to this effect:—"Whereas it hath been maliciously reported that I, Robert Skreen of Corinth, have been against annulling usurious contracts, by which I have lost my few friends, and the little reputation I had; this is to certify that as soon as I have made up some large contracts I will be honest for the future, and give my vote for any clauses of relief."

Four camps are ordered, one at High *(sic)* park, and another at Blackheath, so that the citizens will be taken care of. It is talked that some Danes are to come over to meet the King of Prussia, who is to be here in June. What relation these bear to one another, I know not.

E[RASMUS] LEWIS to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1721, April 13. Queen Street—If it was possible for your Lordship to receive any satisfaction in an event by which your country suffers, the overthrow of this monstrous scheme would afford you matter of very pleasing thoughts, but the tragedy is too cruel, and the destruction too extensive for a nobleman of your generous sentiments to smile at, but, however the calamity may have

spread, and however the distresses of the public may call for compassion, one's spirits must be a little enlivened when one remarks the detection of some men's frauds, and their punishment by the hands of their own confederates. Happy for us that all our neighbours are in the like miserable state, and therefore not in a condition to reap any advantage from our confusions. The more distant powers of the north and the south, who have not played these desperate games, are enfeebled another way, viz., by long expensive wars, and seem now equally disposed to seek peace on any terms.

Our Gazette furnishes us with one piece of news a little uncommon, viz., the King of Denmark's marriage, which was solemnized the day after the Queen's death. The lady is of the House of Ranzau, and his old mistress. The great Earl of Coventry and the Winendale General, with many more, have done the same thing this year.

Matthew Prior to Lady Harley.

[1721, April 14.] Friday morning—I send your Ladyship eight pigeons, which I hope you will not look upon as ordinary birds, being the first tribute which I have received from Down, and consequently the fairest proof of my great duty to my Lady Harriett Harley; my will and pleasure is that two of them may be roasted immediately for my dear little Lady's private table, the other six for your Ladyship's dinner to-morrow, to be neatly accommodated and incrusted with sweetbreads and "sparagrass" according to the discretion of your cook. Hoping it may prove an eating-day, and that I may have the honor of assisting at the ceremony of seeing at least half a one of them on your plate, I am, with the greatest truth, respect and veneration, &c.

Postscript.—Squire Morley shall only have some of the crust.

P., Bishop of Hereford, to [the Earl of Oxford].

1721, April 19. Hereford—I humbly thank you for the obliging offer of your picture. The Duke of Leeds's is a whole length, for I think no other becomes the white staff. Though I am highly desirous of having your Lordship's done in the best manner yet I am afraid it may give you too much fatigue to sit on purpose, and cannot be done till you get to London.

[Edward Harley, junior, to Abigail Harley.]

1721, April 20. London—I can now write with some satisfaction and ease, and turn to see what is doing about us, and indeed the prospect is but bad. Nothing arises or increases here but uneasiness, discontent, and clamour, which reigns in every part of the city. The Exchange is the least frequented place of any in it, Jonathan's and Garraway's empty, and no creature but passengers to be seen in the Alley, nor any trade stirring but what belongs to common necessaries. Many petitions are already presented, and others are expected from every corner of the kingdom.

A third report is prepared, which relates to old Craggs's estate. Caswall is to be again examined before the Secret Committee. It is now said that the Directors and accomplices will be taxed, which

is the only method of coming at any of their effects. The monarch's answer to the city address printed in the "Evening Post" is worth your notice. I suppose you have the last Saturday's "London Journal" with the whipping paragraph upon W[alpole]. I have here sent my sister the screen which has made so much noise, and which so many ladies went to see in Arlington Street, and therefore desire that you will screen me for not writing to her this post.

[Edward Harley] to the Earl of Oxford, at Brampton Castle.

1721, May 2—Upon the second reading of the Bill against blasphemy this day after a debate of many hours, the commitment is put off for three weeks. All the Court Lords and three Bishops voting for the delay, this is the scheme for establishing the P[rotestant?] S[uccession?].

In the House of Commons they have given up the seven millions belonging to the public to the South Sea sufferers, and so new schemes are to be settled for establishing credit, which is sunk into so deep a consumption that even asses' milk it is thought will not retrieve it.

For my own part as long as the war is carrying on against heaven we have very little reason to expect peace or settlement on earth.

The Archbishop, Lord Nottingham, Lord Trevor, Lord Bathurst spoke for the Bill; Lord Sunderland, Lord Townshend, Lord Carteret, Lord Ilay, Bishop Kennett against.

[Edward Harley, junior,] to Abigail Harley.

1721, May 4. Tuesday—The Bill against infidelity was read a second time, and after a long debate it was put off by a great majority for three weeks. All the Bishops that could come were present, and only five for the Bill, Canterbury, London, Winchester, Chester, and Lichfield and Coventry. All the rest divided against it. To what a dismal condition are we reduced when Bishops defend blasphemy and infidelity, and betray religion, judges screen corruptions in the law, and the Ministry villanies in the State! I think since our holy religion and its great Author is thus betrayed, we can expect nothing but misery and desolation.

To shew that our credit is as much taken care of as our religion, the seven millions is given up. Craggs' estate is made liable as Mr. Aislabie's, only they have granted to his heirs all the estate, real and personal, that he was possessed of in December, 1719; but all the rest is confiscated.

Lan[celot], Bishop of Exeter, to Lord Harley.

1721, May 9. Derby Court in Cannon Row—Referring to the loan of a book.

[Edward Harley, junior,] to Abigail Harley.

1721, May 9—Tom Vernon was yesterday expelled from the House for attempting to corrupt Ross. He called Ross out of the Committee and told him Aislabie's bill was to come on, and offered him a large sum, which Ross refused, and then told the House. I am very sorry for him, for I think him an honest man.

EDWARD HARLEY, junior, to ABIGAIL HARLEY.

1721, May 30—You will see in Saturday's votes the wrath of the House against "Mist" and their zeal for the monarch, yet I think the libel lies in the application and not in the paper itself. If the journal should have miscarried on Saturday, let me know, and I will send you one.

Upon the allowance to be made to Blunt, a warm debate arose. The Court violent against him, Lawrence Carter moved that he should have but a shilling. Walpole said that he was the projector of this baneful scheme, that his informations were only whispers and hear-says, and that as he had been the chief contriver and manager, he should have the greater punishment. To this Shippen said that he was no advocate for Blunt, who had been recommended to the favour of the House by the Secret Committee for the light he had given them, but that now he perceived that the discoveries Sir John had made were his greatest crimes, and therefore he was to be made an example to deter the other directors from telling what they knew. As to that gentleman every one within doors and without agree in their opinion of him, and the part he acted in this affair, but let me tell him this step will sink him lower than ever he has yet fallen. And I desire to put him in mind that the projector of this baneful project was knighted upon his being restored to favour. After a long struggle a 1000*l.* was allowed Blunt; the others have more.

[EDWARD HARLEY, junior,] to ABIGAIL HARLEY.

1721, June 18—A prorogation is expected. W[alpole] told the House upon the debate about the seven millions that that money had been applied one way by this session already, and that it could not be applied to another in the same session, therefore a short prorogation was necessary. It is thought this will be before the Directors Bill passes, so that if they have not friends enough already, they will have time to make more. Sir George is so sure of this that he made a great entertainment for all his city friends, and Mrs. Aislabie wrote to a lady in this country, that they should suffer little damages besides the confinement. Carleton is to be at the head of the Ministry, but is to have affairs made a little easy for him. It is talked that the malt and land-tax is to be granted for another year, if not for two.

E[RASMUS] LEWIS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1721, June 20. London—I am assured there are a hundred and thirty-eight members of the House of Commons who have borrowed money of the South Sea Company. They are preparing a law to exempt themselves from these debts by a composition of ten per cent. What they will do hereafter with the great debt of those they represent, time must show; I cannot however help taking notice that a sponge does not sound so terrible in some corners of the town, as it used to do.

THE DUKE OF HAMILTON AND BRANDON, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1721, July 29. Edinburgh—The report of a new Parliament gives Mr. Savage's friends in this country some hopes of being capable to serve Mr. Steele and their country in the ensuing elections.

Mr. Norton knows how this part of Britain has been managed for some years past by two contending parties, to wit Messrs. Floyd and Freeman, Parham and Pincombe, each of these having several adherents, will both (in all probability), make application to Messrs. Wallgrave and Willoby, for their interest and votes.

Though Mr. Mercer is disqualified from being an elector yet Messrs. Wallgrave and Willoby do him the honour to admit him to their councils, and they are resolved to act a separate part.

As to the economy of this new Society, they have by a writ signed, obliged themselves to be concluded in everything by a plurality of their own number; this was thought absolutely necessary, not only to appear more considerable by their unanimity, but to tie down some, that had particular attachments to the leading men of the other parties.

By this manner of proceeding, though they are few in number, yet either party joining us, on such terms as we judge most advantageous to the honour of the peerage, and the just interest of Britain, we shall be capable to defeat the other by a majority.

As this naturally directs them, to offer us so many of our own number to represent the peerage of this part of Britain in the ensuing Parliament, so I must beg Mr. Noland's counsel and advice both as to our future proceedings and the persons to be elected.

As Mr. Norton's situation, wisdom, and long experience in public affairs entitles him to the knowledge of seeing future events at a greater distance than many others, so I hope he will honour me with his directions which will not only be a rule to myself, but of great use to Messrs. Wallgrave and Willoby.

I am sorry I had not the honour of seeing Mr. Norton when in England, but I hope the state of his health is perfectly recovered, and that he may live long, the true patriot of his country and ornament of his age.

NEWS LETTER.

[1721,] August 10—Yesterday the Lords read a third time the Bill for making several provisions to restore public credit, without an amendment.

Before it passed, some debates arose for and against reading the annuitants' petition, wherein a certain Lord [Coningsby] made a speech in which he traced down most or all of the frauds and breaches of trust which have happened since the Rump Parliament under Oliver Cromwell, but said this of the late Directors was the worst, that he doubted not but the present Directors were rogues, adding that let a man be chosen a Director, and he commences a rogue.

His Lordship then complained that the House of Commons had hitherto had the sole management of the whole affair, but thought it was now high time for their Lordships to assert their judicature in rejecting such a Bill as this which strikes at the property of 50,000 people, or at least to hear what they have to say, and on this head

observed that during his twenty-two weeks' confinement in the Tower he had seen records how tenacious those noble Lords their ancestors were of their own rights and those of the people.

His Lordship further said that he remembered a time when there was no name or notion of public credit, and that the distinction was not introduced till the revenues came to be mortgaged, and that only national credit was formerly the distinction, that is the credit which promotes trade abroad, and he doubted not but he should see the list of them who had voted for the Bill compared with the list on the table of those who had stocks taken in for them.

News Letter.

[1721,] August 12—The following narrative requires but little introduction, a long one is therefore omitted, that our readers may have more of the matter of fact.

"We hope every Englishman that is not a villain, nor a friend to villains, will be obliged to us for this publication, which might otherwise have never been made. If we run a risk by it in our private circumstances, which nothing could engage us to but the love of our country, we hope while we are subservient to that, we have nothing to fear from honest men and Britons. To God and them, therefore, we commit our cause, nor dread the consequence. Here we find the source of all our misery and woe; here we see who have been traitors, harpies, and parricides; who their aiders, confederates, and abettors; to whom we owe the national calamities we labour under; and who has contributed to destroy us at home, and make us contemptible abroad. Here appears the cause of widows' sighs, the orphans' tears, the ruin of families, the distress of millions, the sinking of credit, the discouragement of trade, the lowering our stocks. Here we see who have been lavish of the nation's wealth, and squandered away our treasure to help to undo us; here we see the reason of the hardships the poor annuitants suffer by; here we see who have built private fortunes at the public expense; here we see to the bottom of the fatal wound our dear country has received; and they stand confessed who gave the blow. In a word, here we see to whom grace has abounded, and who stood in need of indemnity."

The messengers of the several offices were employed last night and this morning to prevent the dispersing of the "London Journal." They broke the printing-press, and seized all the copies they could find in the printing-house, and this day they took from the hawkers in the street all the copies they had in their possession. There is nothing remarkable in the "Journal" but six columns of it containing a part of the examinations taken by the Committee of Secrecy, with an account of what appeared to them thereupon, which was to be continued in their next, and is the beginning of the report, but that which gives offence besides the publishing of the report is the introduction above written.

This day was sold in Coffee-houses the report of the Lords' proceedings relating to the South Sea Directors, their officers, Aislabie and Craggs, with the conferences thereupon.

It is reported that a patent is to pass for creating Lord Harcourt a viscount, and it is further said that he is to be Privy Seal.

[W. Bromley to the Earl of Oxford.]

1721, August 22—I would have returned to London, if there had been the least prospect of doing any service, but I found very few to be conversed with, all discontented; one from his usual despondency against meddling at all, others deep in, and not recovered from what your Lordship very properly calls their South Sea madness, which being taken by too much dipping, they cannot be cured as fox-hounds are, and everyone of them expecting remedies where they were not to be had. Such variety was there in their cases, that no Catholicon could be contrived for them. For in such a complication, what helped one, increased another's malady.

I had a great deal at second-hand of the project then pretended to be carrying on, but wanting faith, I absolutely declined the opportunities offered and pressed upon me of receiving all possible assurances from the first. Promises were made to me so extravagantly large, that it was affronting me to imagine I could think them sincere, and be imposed upon by them.

My dependence is entirely on your great abilities. Your perfect knowledge of men and of our constitution, your sagacity and dexterity to extricate us out of our difficulties, for—si Pergama dextra, &c.

E[rasmus] Lewis to the Earl of Oxford.

1721, September 9. London—I have often the pleasure of hearing that your health is more and more confirmed, and that you intend soon to come to London. I cannot but rejoice that you are so well as to be able to take your seat in Parliament again, and be of use to your country, and a protection to your friends and your servants.

I send you enclosed a letter said to have been written about three years ago from Lord Bolingbroke to Lord Stair. It has already done a good deal of mischief to its author, who seems to be otherwise loaded with more than his share of misfortunes.

Lord Harley to Humfrey Wanley, at Mrs. Weaver's, in Halliwell, Oxford.

1721, September 19. Wimpole—I have received all the letters, I believe, which you have written from Oxford. I am sorry you have been in want of your money, but indeed all last week I was in so much concern for Mr. Prior that I could not think of writing. On Monday night, he was taken ill with a violent vomiting, he was something better on Wednesday, and thought his distemper over, that night it returned with greater violence, he had all the help this country and London could afford, but without effect; so that it pleased God to deliver him from his pain, for yesterday exactly at one o'clock he died. His death is of great trouble to us all here, but I have this satisfaction that nothing was wanting to preserve his life. We must all submit.

I have here enclosed a bill for twenty pounds. Christian is I hope better.

Pray buy Fletcher's two books, I fancy one guinea will be enough. I shall be glad to be a purchaser of the complutentian Bible, I suppose that cannot be done but by the curators of the library, I leave it to your management. I do not remember anything in the library

of Vedas works in manuscripts; if there be, Mr. Tristram shall be welcome to the use of any I have.

I desire you will not have any thoughts about getting the Egyptian Plank, &c., if there are any prints of them I should be glad to have them.

H. Cavendish Holles, Lady Harley, to the Earl of Oxford.

1721, October 1. Wimpole—I am obliged to you for a very kind letter. The melancholy time we have had of Mr. Prior's illness being while he was living betwixt hope and fear, and since the misfortune of losing him, he having ever since I have known him been a friend to us, has affected me so much it has some time prevented my paying my duty sooner to you in acknowledgments. I hope by the account Lord Harley has of your health you will in a short time be able to take a London journey before the shortest days and bad weather come in.

Paul Chamberlen to [the Earl of Oxford].

1721, October 28—The value you had for my deceased father, Dr. Chamberlen, joined with the honour I have to be related to your Lordship by the Countess of Oxford makes me hope I may be as fit an object for your generosity as those who daily taste your bounty. My father, through his fondness to his wife, was seduced whilst I was travelling to leave all in her power; she gave it to her relations, and left her own son destitute. This is the state of my affairs, and I should be infinitely obliged if you should think me worthy of any relief, at a time that I want even the common necessaries of life. I might perhaps have attempted to do myself honour by endeavouring some verses on your Lordship, but who could think of succeeding, where even Mr. Prior failed.

Postscript.—I have ventured to enclose herewith a few lines nowhere to be met with.

An excellent new ballad to the tune of "Which nobody can deny." Eleven stanzas, beginning:—

Ye Whigs and ye Tories, in country and city,
Attend and give ear to my excellent ditty,
Both High Church and Low Church, I'm sure it will fit ye,
Which, &c.

and ending,

For they'll think of such ministers if they've the curse,
Who have ruined the people and drained every purse.
Come Pope or come Devil, there ne'er can come worse,
Which, &c.

Lord Chancellor Parker to the Earl of Oxford.

1721, October 31. House of Lords—The House, taking notice of the small appearance of the Lords this session of Parliament, have ordered that the House shall be called over on Thursday, the ninth of November next, and have commanded me to signify the same to your Lordship, and that your attendance is then expected.

[*Draft of reply attached to the above.*] I have been confined to my chamber for a year past by very violent illness, and it is only lately I have been able to go down stairs, and to try how I could bear the air and the motion of a coach for a few miles, in order to be able to take a London journey to consult about my health. I beg the favour of your laying the state of my case before the House of Peers, who I hope will excuse my attendance.

Lord Morpeth to Lord Harley.

1721, November 9. London—Hearing that the Duke of Montagu was disposing of the interest for the borough of Clitheroe makes me give your Lordship this trouble, as it is the Duchess of Albemarle's estate, and the interest belonging to her. I think the Duke should be the last man that should pretend to it, or I am sure after the usage she has met with from that family that we should suffer. I heard he intended to recommend one of his own name against the next election, and this morning I talked to Mr. Harvey, the present member, he told me he believed the Duke had not fixed upon whom he should recommend. I asked him whether the Duke had any interest there at present. He said, no, but as he had the reversion he supposed we shou'd not dispute the choice with him. I know nobody so proper nor that I should be so desirous of to stand for that borough as your Lordship if you are not otherwise engaged, and if you are, if you have any particular friend to recommend, I shall be very zealous in it. If you have none, and that your Lordship has the same thoughts of the Duke of Montagu's proceeding, as I have, I hope that you will give me leave to make use of the interest either for myself or a friend of mine, and you will very much oblige, &c.

News Letter.

[1721,] November 9—This day after six o'clock the Lords who protested against rejecting the city petition presented by the two sheriffs, signed their protest with the reasons, and amongst them the Lord Trevor. The Lords read the list of regiments and their half-pay officers, and the articles of war. They read the Mutiny Bill the second time, and committed it for Tuesday; there was no question nor division. Lord Trevor spoke against most parts of the Bill, and particularly said that in this time of so general a peace neither such a number of forces nor martial law was necessary. He took notice that the King had power to change the articles of war, &c. The Earl of Sunderland made a summary answer, allowed that there was some ground for debate about the number, and power of limb and life in time of peace, but that was to be considered in the debate on Tuesday; he added that Lord Trevor had said some things which he thought were mistakes, but not voluntary. Lord Coningsby said that he disagreed from what the noble Lord had said of the time of peace, because being denied to see the treaties, they knew not whether there was peace in the north or south; he spoke of the merit of parliamentary soldiers, of whom he was never afraid, but thought them ill-rewarded if they were made slaves in time of peace as they would be by the Mutiny Bill if it passed. It was said that the Mutiny Bill with the clause of life and limb never was in King William's

reign enacted, &c.; nor till after the late rebellion. It was said also and probably by Trevor, that if the King could change the articles they might punish for other crimes than desertion.

The "Daily Courant" of this day was taken notice of by the House of Commons for the reasons published in it against ingraftment of the South Sea Company with the Bank, &c. Messrs. Hutchinson and Hungerford were the first who spoke, saying it was not for any to tell what the Parliament would or would not do or publish such reasons &c. But the House being thin and about 30 only, the Speaker said there could no question be put, except to adjourn, and so the affair of the "Courant" was adjourned till Monday. Some say Mr. Shippen said somewhat which Mr. Horatio Walpole thought reflected on him. The objections in the general court of South Sea Company on Thursday were made by Young and Hopkins, the former was much hissed. One Bleuiet or one Pitt, a Quaker, spoke most for the question. Lord Cadogan and General Wade were present. Cadogan with other eight moved for the balloting. The objections against the question were like those in the "Daily Courant" that the Parliament would not remit the two millions nor favour the Company if they rejected the ingraftment. Mr. Walpole has been much for the ingraftment; he continues indisposed as is said in town.

THE DUKE OF CHANDOS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1721, November 14—The dissolution of the present Parliament, being, I hear, resolved on, and a new one to be called in spring, I cannot forbear troubling your Lordship with this, to acquaint you, that I have heard you have thoughts of putting Lord Harley up for the county of Hereford, and that I should be glad to know more fully your Lordship's intentions herein. I wish Lord Carnarvon was of age to have the honour of joining with him, but as he is not, and that there are candidates who would not fail to take the advantage of his minority to vacate such an election, it cannot, I think, be advisable for me to run such a hazard. I must, therefore, entreat your favour in behalf of my relation, Sir Hungerford Hoskyns, who offers his service again to the county, and is ambitious of having your support and countenance. I shall be very ready to do Lord Harley all the service I can, and hope your Lordship will be so good as to render the like office to Sir Hungerford by engaging Lord Harley not to join against him, if you should not think it convenient for them to unite their interests.

DR. WILLIAM STUKELEY to LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole.

1721, November 16. Ormond Street—Dr. Halley resigning his office of secretary to the Royal Society, I have been pressed by Sir Hans Sloane, Mr. Gale, and a great many of the chief members to offer myself in that quality at the ensuing election on St. Andrew's Day. Mr. Wanley has promised me his vote if you will permit him to stay so long in town, which is what I humbly entreat of your Lordship.

A., LADY PYE to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1721, November 19. Aynho—I believe in my last to my dear cousin did say I should leave Clifton, you may expect to hear from me

when settled, designed it sooner, got cold on the road and was ill. Bless God now better, but forced to refrain malt drink, and keep to Spa water and red wine, which neither agrees with my palate or purse, but health is above all things. Came hither the 21st of last month. Have an entire apartment with stairs to ourselves. It is a large old house, pretty hanging gardens, a very sharp air though esteemed good, hope will agree with us all. This winter coveted retirement, and pray may make a good use of it. My sister is happy in a good neighbour and very honest gentleman, Mr. Cartwright, his lady esteemed, by those that are judges, both ingenious and learned. She once dined with me at Derby, last Sunday invited all this family to their house, a very nice and noble entertainment. There I eat calabash, the growth of their garden, read of it often, knew not till now we had it here. My daughters much regret the absence of the young ladies, all the family removed to the Bath, the small pox being got in this town.

Postscript.—Please to direct for me at Mrs. Watkins at Aynho on the hill, in Northamptonshire.

Humphrey Walcot to [the Earl of Oxford].

1721, November 25. Westminster—Begs his Lordship's interest at Ludlow for the next election of members of Parliament, by letting his steward ask votes for him there and in the neighbourhood.

The Duke of Chandos to [the Earl of Oxford].

1721, November 29—Were Lord Carnarvon farther advanced in years I should be not a little ambitious of so valuable a mark of my countrymen's esteem as the choice of him for one of their representatives should carry with it, especially when it was to be increased with the additional honour of serving along with Lord Harley; but as he wants more than two years to be of the age Lord Scudamore was when he was chosen, it would, I fear, be thought very unreasonable in me to desire it. It is besides inconsistent with my engagement to Sir Hungerford Hoskyns. I return, however, my humble thanks to your Lordship for the disposition you are pleased to show towards promoting such an application had I had the intention to have made it, and must renew my entreaties that you will show the same friendship to Sir Hungerford you designed to my son.

Dr. Thomas Tudway to Lord Harley.

1721, December 6—After Dr. Middleton had moved the Court for judgment in the affair betwixt him and Bentley, he was admonished by them to agree with the latter about the charges of suit. He thereupon thought it advisable to go to Bentley's lodgings, and talk to him about it. He went twice but Bentley would not see him. The second time Bentley sent his lawyer to him, who told him that the Master expected he should beg his pardon in open court, and sign a paper of recantation to be set up in the screen of the College Hall, with some other insolent demands. The doctor made no reply, but acquainted the judges, who were greatly indignant against Bentley, ordered the charges to be taxed, which were thus set at 30*l.*, and

dismissed the suit. Bentley came away the next day to Cambridge, without knowing what had passed, and assured them at the college that they would see Middleton made an example of, for the libel he had written against him and the college. But Dr. Middleton coming home a few days after, and giving his account so different from what Bentley had boasted of, his friends were all confounded, and made to laugh on the wrong side of their mouths; and Bentley has the mortification to find there is an end put to his roguery, at least on that head.

DR. R[OBERT] JENKIN, Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, to [LORD HARLEY].

1721, December 10—Mr. Prior's books cannot be chosen in the manner prescribed by him, unless the books be upon the place, so I deferred doing anything until your pleasure is known. Mr. Baker declines the undertaking, and with me would put it into the hands of Mr. Bedford, a very fit person for such an employment; he was an intimate friend of Mr. Prior's, and is a very good and worthy man.

EDWARD LANY to LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole.

1721, December 11. Pembroke Hall [Cambridge]. I am very much obliged to your care to send Mr. Gibbs's design for our building. I design to offer it to the Syndics as soon as they meet. I have not skill enough myself to judge of it, but I doubt we have already a design very near the same from Mr. Burroughs, only his is upon rustic pillars, not unlike those that support Lincoln's Inn Chapel.

A[LEXANDER] POPE to [LORD HARLEY].

1721, December 12—I cannot, by any words, express my obligation to you for the permission your Lordship gives me to print these verses. I am thoroughly sensible how much honour is done to any man, from whom a person of so much real greatness of mind will suffer praise; and I am, with the truest gratitude for this distinction shown me, and with the utmost faithfulness, my Lord, your most sincere admirer, and most affectionate servant.

DR. JOHN COVEL to [LORD HARLEY].

1721, December 18. Christ's College, [Cambridge]—I hope you have had sufficient time and opportunities to show the catalogue of my gems and varieties to men of honour and skill in them; and it ever was my passionate desire to have seen two or three such men here minutely to have viewed and examined all. I have been forty years at least in collecting them, and, therefore, I hope I may pretend to have some skill in them. I call God to my witness that I have no design or desire, but that your honour may have a pennyworth for your penny, and that I myself might have a penny for my pennyworth.

I am an old man of four score years and four, and I hear that you are going soon for some time out of this country. I should count it a very great honour and a most singular favour if you would be pleased to send me your utmost proposal of what you will allow me

for them. The sooner it is it will be so much the better. It ever was my hearty desire that my whole collection might be at last in one hand. But if your Lordship is not so disposed, but refuse them, that I may have more time otherwise to dispose of them all.

E[RASMUS] LEWIS to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1721, December 23. London—There are not wanting some in the House of Lords, who shew a desire to enquire into the state of the public affairs, but the Ministers do not think proper to indulge this humour, and, therefore, will not give them any of the lights that are necessary; as for this House of Commons they are not so impertinent as to ask for any.

It is observed here by those who are friends to the Government that the speech made at the opening of this session, and the Bill now on foot for taking off some small duties, are the only instances we have had of anything that seemed to carry the least tendency of public good.

LORD NORTH AND GREY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1721-22, January 16. London—The county of Cambridge have desired Lord Harley to represent them in the next ensuing Parliament, and I having some concern there have begged the same favour of him. My Lord excuses himself on designing to stand for Herefordshire, where no doubt you have a very great interest; but he has likewise a very great stake with us, and there will be very little opposition to him. I shall venture, therefore, to add to the county's my own entreaty that you will persuade Lord Harley to stand for Cambridgeshire.

DR. JOHN COVEL to LORD HARLEY, at Dover Street.

1721-22, January 20—My stay (in London) will be very short. I should have waited on Dr. Stratford, but I cannot possibly have any time to do it; if you will be pleased to invite him to dinner on Monday next, I shall presume to meet him there. I would fain visit Sir Isaac Newton, but whether you have so much intimacy with him as to have his company then I cannot tell. If he was there it would be a happy compendium of my excuses for omitting a formal visit to them both.

THOMAS BACON to LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole.

1721-22, March 10. Queen's Square—I beg leave to acquaint you that the ring was sold this day at the auction of Yale for 355 guineas. I got up at four this morning to have the pleasure of bidding 350 guineas, and should have gone higher, but I had exceeded so much the sum limited by you; and being assured that an unlimited commission was given by the Earl of Pembroke, I stopped with great regret.

DR. JOHN COVEL to [LORD HARLEY].

1722, April 10. Christ's College, [Cambridge]—I beg your answer to my demands for my rarities and curiosities, which I have reserved

for your refusal. You have had a catalogue of them all a year and a half, containing above half of the rarest and most precious things you ever yet saw, and which are in no collection but my own. Matters lying in this uncertain condition give me an unsupportable trouble, and it will certainly shorten my life, for I am entering into the fourscore and fifth year of my age, and I cannot be at ease till some end be put to this affair. Therefore, for God's sake, give me your positive answer, or send me my catalogue with all possible and convenient speed.

J. D. Schumacher to Humfrey Wanley.

1722, May 1—I leave to-morrow or the day after, and on that account my friend, Mr. Stirling, wishes that we should drink a bottle with him. I pray, therefore, that I may find you at half-past three or four at Mr. Hill's, from whence we will go there together. *French.*

[*Endorsed by Wanley:*—"Mr. John Daniel Schumacher, chief library keeper to the Emperor of Russia."]

Dr. John Covel to Lord Harley.

1722, September 26. Christ's College, Cambridge—Give me leave most passionately to repeat my humble request that you would be pleased to give me either your positive answer to my demands, or else send me my catalogue, or rather to do both. For I have no copy of my catalogue, and if you have lost it I am utterly undone. My infirmities are many, and they daily increase, and the intolerable torments of these thoughts, for they occur both night and day, do beyond imagination add to my afflictions.

Therefore pity me, my good Lord, oh pity me, by your speedy and gracious answer.

Jonathan Swift to the Earl of Oxford.

1722, October 11. Dublin—I often receive letters franked Oxford, but always find them written and subscribed by your servant Mynett. His meaning is some business of his own, wherein I am his solicitor, but he makes his court by giving me an account of the state of your family, and perpetually adds a clause that your Lordship soon intends to write to me. I knew you indeed when you were not so great a man as you are now, I mean when you were Treasurer, but you are grown so proud since your retirement, that there is no enduring you; and you have reason, for you never acted so difficult a part of life before. In the two great scenes of power and prosecutions you have excelled mankind, but in this of retirement you have most injuriously forgot your friends. Poor Prior often sent me his complaints on this occasion, and I have returned him mine. I never courted your acquaintance when you governed Europe, but you courted mine, and now you neglect me, when I use all my insinuations to keep myself in your memory. I am very sensible, that next to receiving thanks and compliments there is nothing you more hate than writing letters; but since I never gave you thanks, nor made you compliments, I have so much more merit than any of those thousands whom you have less obliged by only making their fortunes without taking them into your friendship, as

you did me, whom you always countenanced in too public and particular a manner to be ever forgotten either by the world or myself, for which never any man was more proud or less vain.

I have now been ten years soliciting for your picture, and if I had solicited you for a thousand pounds (I mean of your own money, not the public) I could have prevailed in ten days. You have given me many hundred hours, can you not now give me a couple? Have my mortifications been so few, or are you so malicious to add a greater than I ever yet suffered? Did you ever refuse me anything I asked you? and will you now begin? In my conscience I believe, and by the whole conduct of your life I have reason to believe, that you are too poor to bear the expense. I ever told you, that I was the richer man of the two, and I am now richer by five hundred pounds than I was at the time when I was boasting at your table of my wealth before Diamond Pitts. I have hitherto taken up with a scurvy print of you, under which I have placed this lemma, "*Veteres actus primamque juventam Prosequar? Ad sese mentem præsentia ducunt.*" And this I will place under your picture whenever you are rich enough to send it me. I will only promise in return, that it shall never lose you the reputation of poverty, which to one of your birth, patrimony, and employments is one of the greatest glories in your life, and so shall be celebrated by me.

I entreat your Lordship if your leisure and my health will permit to let me know when I can be a month with you at Brampton Castle, because I have a great deal of business with you that relates to posterity. Mr. Minet has for some time led me an uncomfortable life with his ill accounts of your health, but, God be thanked, his style is of late much altered for the better. My hearty and constant prayers are for the preservation of you and your excellent family. Pray my Lord write to me, or you never loved me, or I have done something to deserve your displeasure. My Lord and Lady Harriette, my brother and sister, pretend to atone by making me fine presents, but I would have his Lordship know that I would value two of his lines more than two of his manors.

Dr. Ri[chard] Bentley to Lord Harley.

1722, October 29. At the Royal Library [St. James's].—Having examined this autumn about ten MSS. of Lucan I have prepared a new edition of him just ready for the press, with so much success that it will almost look like a new poem. 'Tis now ready to be sent to the printer, but understanding that your Lordship has some MSS. of him, I cannot omit to do myself and your books the justice to let them have a share in the edition. I'll not carry them out of town, but return them to you in a fortnight. Mr. Casley, under librarian and the bearer of this, will give his receipt for them, if you please to do me this favour, for which I shall make public acknowledgment. Mr. Casley has likewise the MSS. and old editions that Mr. Walker gathered in Flanders, and were offered to your Lordship; he has full commission to dispose of them, if you like the purchase.

J[acob] Tonson to [Lord Harley].

1722, November 15—I am directed by the editor of Livy [Mattaire?] to ask your pardon from *(sic)* the liberty he has taken in dedicating that work to your Lordship. You will forgive me if I ask your acceptance of one of the copies of it.

THOMAS ROBE to [LADY HARLEY?]

1722-23, January 7—The play I send to your Ladyship with this, being left in my hands by a relation of the author's to turn it to the best advantage I could for an unfortunate person, good judges having revised it and approved of it as a fit entertainment for the stage, there wanted nothing to complete the design, but the choice of a proper patroness.

If this Tragedy has the good fortune to meet with your Ladyship's approbation, the influence you have over the theatre will perhaps induce you to lay your commands upon the play-house in Lincoln's Inn Fields to act it; and as the season is already far advanced, I beg you will order it being acted in such a reasonable time as may be of service to the author.

ROBERT SHIPPEN to [LORD HARLEY].

1723, April 1. Oxford—Has received his Lordship's kind present of the three pictures of Lord Dorset, Mr. Prior, and Mr. Pope, for which he is to return his own and the University's thanks.

FRANCIS, BISHOP OF ROCHESTER to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1723, June 16.] Sunday morning. The Tower—Since I cannot see your Lordship, permit me to take my leave of you in this manner; and to wish you from the bottom of my heart the recovery of your health, and the enjoyment of all manner of honour and happiness.

Whatever my fate be, and to whatsoever part of the world I go, I shall preserve to my death a grateful sense of your Lordship's past favours; and if God ever puts it in my power, will not fail in the best manner I am able, to make some poor returns to your Lordship and family; to whom I will be, while I live, a faithful and respectful servant.

I could not leave England without saying thus much to your Lordship; and these words shall be attended with deeds wherever God gives me proper opportunities. My hurry and the particular circumstances I am under will not let me say more, but I was willing thus far to repeat under my hand the message I before sent by an acquaintance of your Lordship's. God preserve and bless your Lordship, and grant that I may see you again in such a manner as may be welcome to both of us.

Annexed is a copy of the above letter made by Humfrey Wanley.

SIR MICHAEL WARTON to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1723, September 24—Nothing but the last necessity could make me write this to desire your Lordship to suspend the honour you intended me this afternoon of a visit. I was last night till this morning in an agony with this new distemper in the guts. It tyrannizes over the poor remains of life my fever has left, worse than this "Wallpolish" government over an agonizing free people. My Lord: *dum spiro spero*, and as soon as I have the least glimpse of health, I shall desire the happiness of your good company which I long for.

[*Endorsed by Lord Oxford:*—"Answered immediately."]

MRS. A. BATEMAN to ABIGAIL HARLEY, at Eywood.

1723, September 28. London—I am yet in Queen Street, and still a widow. I fear poor ones won't go off, and am sorry the rich are forced to purchase husbands. I hope it is only in Herefordshire they are so distressed. My head dear Madam is not well, but my heart continues true to the two namesakes. I am happy the young one is happy sometimes in the company of Paulina. Pray let me know what reception she had when she returned the visit. The Bashaw arrived safe at last. I had one letter since, full of joy. My spectacle man is better than you can imagine. I am to dine with his lady soon again, but no dinner to me that gives me so much satisfaction as stinking venison. Tell the young one so. Don't let her fret, I love her, and am her faithful servant.

You tell me of horse races, but none can come up to those of Ripon, the place of my nativity. Last week Mrs. Aislabie gave a plate to be run for by women, and nine of that sex mounted their steeds, rid astride, were dressed in drawers, waistcoats and jockey caps, their shapes transparent, and a vast concourse of people to see them. I think the lady who was the benefactress to this indecent diversion should have made the tenth in number.

Lord Lexington is dead. He has left Sir Robert Sutton and the Brigadier legacies of one hundred pounds each, and jewels to Lady Catherine Hyde, to the value of five thousand pounds, "from an unfortunate man, who always loved and valued her." This was the only part of the will which was written in his own hand. Mrs. Darcy one hundred pounds. All else to the Duchess of Rutland for life, then to her sons. I wish you may read what I have written for my head is so dozey, I can hardly see to subscribe myself.

DR. THOMAS TUDWAY to the EARL OF OXFORD, in Albemarle Street.

1723, October 8—In conversation with Mr. Bacon at Stourbridge fair, a place famous for cold meat and hot drink, I had the satisfaction to hear of almost the entire re-establishment of your Lordship's health and that you continue to enjoy a good share of it, bating the infirmities of age advancing; I know not what whim took me in the head, that I should presume to think I could any way contribute to the diversion of so great a man as your Lordship, by any trifles, or pretensions of mine; especially, since I know how much, and how well your time is taken up; we have lost our old friend, Dr. Covel, with whom I seldom failed of drinking your health every evening; I was more frequently with him than any other, especially since the decline of his life, which has been visible these four or five years; I wish he had kept the legacy I had by his death, which begins to grow a burthen, rather than a favor, for he left me, one of the oldest men in the University; truly a very odd legacy, to do a man a kindness with.

Our building, which truly goes up very fast, and also a fine new set of bells of ten, is what we have to boast of; the churchwardens, believing them to be related to music, would needs appeal to me in all cases, and among the rest, whether they had best send them by sea, they being cast in London, I answered their doubts as well as I could, and told them, I believed they might without hazard, they having a proverb on their side, that those who are born to be hanged will never be drowned. Other occurrences are about inoculating the

small-pox, which has been done here, with good success, by Mr. Warren, my Lord Harley's Wimpole surgeon, to four of his own children at once. Both kind of pox's may now I perceive be easily ingrafted by different applications, one by inoculation, the other, your Lordship will I hope be pleased to pardon the levity of the thought, by ink—culation *(sic)*.

[JONATHAN SWIFT to the EARL OF OXFORD.]

1723, November 6. Dublin—Bussy Rabutin in his exile of 20 years writ every year a letter to the King, only to keep himself in memory, but never received an answer. This hath been my fortune, and yet I love you better then ever I did, and I believe you do not love me worse. I ever gave great allowance to the laziness of your temper in the article of writing letters, but I cannot pardon your forgetfulness in sending me your picture. If you were still a first minister, I would hardly excuse your promise of nine years; I will be revenged, I will put Lord Harley, nay I will put Lady Harriett, upon you. Mr. Minet hath sometimes made me uneasy with his accounts of your health; but he and the public papers being silent in that particular, I am in hopes it is established again. I am recovering mine by riding in hopes to get enough one summer to attend you at Brampton Castle, for I have a thousand things to say to you in relation to somewhat *quod et hunc in annum vivat et plures*. Be so kind in two lines to invite me to your house, you asked me once when you governed Europe whether I was ashamed of your company; I ask you now whether you are ashamed of mine. It is vexatious that I, who never made court to you in your greatness, nor ask anything from you, should be now perpetually teasing for a letter and a picture. While you were Treasurer you never refused me when I solicited for others, why in your retirement will you always refuse me when I solicit for myself? I want some friend like myself near you to put you out of your play. In my conscience I think that you who were the humblest of men in the height of power are grown proud by adversity, which I confess you have borne in such a manner that if there be any reason why a mortal should be proud, you have it all on your side. But I, who am one of those few who never flattered or deceived you, when you were in a station to be flattered and deceived, can allow no change of conduct with regard to myself, and I expect as good treatment from you as if you were still first minister. Pray my Lord forgive me this idle way of talk, which you know was always my talent, and yet I am very serious in it, and expect you will believe me, and write to me soon, and comply with every thing I desire. It is destined that you should have great obligations to me for who else knows how to deliver you down to posterity though I leave you behind me, therefore make your court and use me well for I am to be bribed though you never were, I pray God preserve you and your illustrious family (for I hope that title is not confined to "Germanes,") and that you may live to save your country a second time.

For want of another mesenger more than want of manners, I must expect that you will present my most humble respects to my Lord Harley and to Lady Henrietta, whose favours I shall always bear in mind with the greatest gratitude. [*Copy corrected by Lord Harley and endorsed by him:*—"Dr. Swift, Nov. 6, 1723, to Ld. Ox——."]

FRANCIS, BISHOP OF CHESTER, to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

[1723,] November 28—The death of Lord Cowper is a public loss, but all that are concerned for their country will be much more sensible of it if there be nobody left to repair that misfortune.

The present state of the Church is very visible in the Gazette, by which it appears that I am like to meet with five new brethren this next session, all of equal abilities to those I left there last winter. But the condition of the University is like to be much worse, a great breach being made upon our constitution by a late attack upon Oriel, where two fellows regularly chosen have been discarded by a visitatorial power, which we look upon as a specimen of that oppressive scheme which was to have been brought into Parliament if the Lay Lords had had no more regard to rights and properties than the spiritual.

I had been in hopes of meeting you sooner in town, but my motions being regulated by those of greater wheels, I must deny myself that happiness.

THOMAS HEARNE to LORD HARLEY, at Wimpole.

1723, December 14. Edmund Hall, Oxford—This afternoon I received a very generous and unexpected present of fifty pounds from your Lordship, for which I most humbly thank you.

I know very little of that great young man, Mr. William Guise. His friend, Dr. Edward Bernard hath done him justice in his preface to the imperfect book that was left by Mr. Guise. Mr. Guise made several emendations upon Josephus, and communicated them to Dr. Bernard; they were very curious and critical. He left an Abulpheda's Geography ready for the press, it is now in All Souls' Library with an inscription in it written by my friend, Dr. Thomas Smith. I could never see this book, nor indeed could I ever get into that library, though I have desired it.

I do not know at present who was the true author of "Foxes and Fire brands."

W. BROMLEY to [the EARL OF OXFORD].

1723, December 16. Baginton—The time being appointed for the meeting of Parliament, it will not be long ere I have the satisfaction of waiting on your Lordship, though I fear many of both Houses will be very remiss, because they are discouraged, despond, and conclude they can do no service by their attendance. But I have learnt *Non est desperandum de Republicâ*, and no one can foresee the opportunities that may offer. Honest Sir Humphry gives me notice he will call on me the next week as he goes to London; he regrets leaving the country, but cannot be easy in neglecting his duty. I have been entertained with the new [Bishop Burnet's] *Historia sui temporis*, had Thuanus's been like it, the memory of it had perished long before this time. Curiosity and indignation have carried me through this libel, this collection of vile low scandal. Surely he has found fault with an ill grace at clergymen's meddling in politics and secular affairs, when he desires to have it thought he was engaged in them all his life. If the stories tacked together were true, a man in common charity cannot justify it to himself to transmit so much scandal to posterity, and to set his contemporaries in such odious lights. The

book will probably do little harm here, where the author was known, but when our refugees have translated it, those on the other side of the water will be ready to think the English and Scotch the vilest people in the world.

DR. THOMAS TUDWAY to the EARL OF OXFORD.

1723, December 22., Wimpole—I should not again presume to trouble your Lordship with this sort of address had not you had the goodness to pardon the presumption of my last, with giving it such a favourable reception, as encouraged me to do the like, by Mr. Morley, and try to divert your Lordship in the absence of this most considerable part of your most noble family, and I am further encouraged on this subject since I find Saul also among the prophets, for in a letter from the Cardinal where he hearing some passages of B[en]tley's daughters being ready to run away with the gentlemen of the College, for which he has expelled one of them for daring to make love to his daughter. The cardinal thereupon facetiously says that B[en]tly is more concerned for the publication of his daughters than of his books, and doubts not too, under such a father's management, they are ready for the press, and may be had in sheets, without subscription. I should be cautious to own myself the author of anything of this kind after so inimitable a pattern, and therefore shall mention only one or two which have occurred lately, which 'tis said comes from honest R[obert] W[alpole's] own country; where, some gentlemen met at an adjourned sessions, for the people of those parts to take the oaths, and it being hot weather, the justices called out to have the windows opened, to let in the air, upon which a gentleman who had just taken them cried out, "Why, what the devil have we been doing all this while, I thought we had come hither to swear to keep out the h[ei]r." We hear, that a great, rich Duke is going to be married to a great rich Duchess. I believe really their greatness and riches will be thrown away upon one another, since neither of them will be a whit the prouder. By contrary winds we hear little of the great folks on the other side of the water, some have been so wicked to say, that the Egyptian darkness of some of the late windy nights might perhaps deliver them from Egyptian bondage too.

CHARLES JARVIS to LORD HARLEY, in Dover Street.

1723-24—When I gave orders to have the frame to our Dean's picture put on, I recollected that the engraver is to be with me next week to endeavour to make something more like than that done by Mr. Vertue for John Barber, besides it is a half length, and the former is a simple busto.

Your Lordship says I do not keep my word, the Dean interposes "*Obstat reverentia famae*," which I plead. A few days of unfrosty weather will do the business.

[*Endorsed by Lord Harley:*—"Mr. Jarvis, the painter."]

ALEXANDER POPE to the EARL OF OXFORD.

[1724,] May 22, Friday—I came this day to town to wait on your Lordship with the pleasure I always have done; when I was met with the news that turns it into an unfeigned concern, I will venture to say as sincere, though in a less degree, as what I know you feel on

this melancholy occasion. Though indeed it is the end of such a life, as every one (but a son or a friend) must much more admire, and venerate, than lament. For your great father is, without flattery, not now more above all fears, passions, and interests, than he was when living.

My Lord, I could not content the warmth of my heart with barely sending to your doors, to leave a common compliment. Pray excuse this breach of decorum, which I am sensible I commit in writing to you. No man honoured the last Earl of Oxford more, no man loves the present better, than, &c.

Lord Erskine to Lord Harley.

1724, May 24. Paris—Thanking him for kindnesses shown to him when in London, and recommending the bearer, Mr. Falconer, who had served the writer for thirteen years. Such a place as keeper of the noble private library Lord Harley is erecting at Wimpole would be much to his mind.

Death of Robert, Earl of Oxford.

1724, May and June—Letters of condolence addressed to Edward, second Earl of Oxford, by Francis, Bishop of Chester, Earl Poulett, J. Salwey, William Bromley, Col. James Graham, Dr. Thos. Tudway, and Lord Lansdowne; the last named writes from Paris on June 16, N.S.

Jonathan Swift to the Earl of Oxford.

1724, July 9th. Dublin—Although I had for two years past inured myself to expect the death of my Lord your father, from the frequent accounts I received of the bad condition of his health, yet the news of it struck me so sensibly that I had not spirit enough to condole with your Lordship as I ought to have done for so great a loss to the world and to yourself. It is true indeed, you no longer wanted his care and tenderness, nor his example to incite you to virtue, but his friendship and conversation you will ever want, because they are qualities so rare in the world, and in which he so much excelled all others. It hath pleased me in the midst of my grief to hear that he preserved the greatness and calmness and intrepidity of his mind to his last minutes, for it was fit that such a life should terminate with equal lustre to the whole progress of it.

I must now beg leave to apply to your Lordship's justice. He was often pleased to promise me his picture, but his troubles, and sickness, and want of opportunity, and my absence prevented him. I do therefore humbly insist, that your Lordship will please to discharge what I almost look upon as a legacy.

I would entreat another and much greater favour of your Lordship, that at your leisure hours you would please to inspect among your father's papers whether there be any memorials that may be of use towards writing his life, which I have sometimes mentioned to him, and often thought on when I little expected to survive him. I have formerly gathered several hints, but want many materials, especially of his more early times, which might be easily supplied. And such a work most properly belongs to me, who loved and respected him above all men, and had the honour to know him better than any other of my level did.

I humbly beg your Lordship's pardon for so long a letter upon so mournful an occasion.

EDWARD, second EARL OF OXFORD, to DR. JONATHAN SWIFT.

1724, November 2. Wimpole—Good Mr. Dean, there has nothing of late given me so much real trouble and uneasiness as my having so long deferred writing to you to make my acknowledgments for your most kind and obliging letter, and to assure you that I took every part of your letter in the manner you would wish me to do, I must say that amidst my trouble, grief and concern, it gave me a secret pleasure so kind that I was thought of by you, and what was a great addition that you still retained the same thoughts and sentiments of my dear father, and that you had not laid aside the design you once entertained of transmitting his name and story to posterity. I did indeed delay writing sometime because I was in great hopes I should have been able to have given you a much more satisfactory account than I am even now able to do notwithstanding the search I have made in answer to the question you asked, if he had left any memoirs behind him, I suppose you mean in relation to himself.

I have not at present found any among his papers in town; this with some other affairs drew the time into the length it is, but if I have the satisfaction to hear from you again (as I hope I shall), I will be more punctual in my returns for I will allow nobody to value and esteem you more than I do.

There is certainly a very great number of materials for a history, a vast collection of letters and other papers, a great deal may be supplied elsewhere, but give me leave to say that if you do not come into England nothing can be done, it will not be possible to do anything to purpose without this view, there would be nobody more welcome to me than yourself, you should live in your own way, and do just what was most agreeable to you. I have houses enough, you shall take your choice, I must with earnestness repeat it to you again that I beg you will think of this matter seriously.

As to what you mention of the picture, I have often heard my father say that he did design to sit for you, but did not; I shall certainly take care that you shall have a picture and a good one. Pray let me know what size you would have it of; if you design it should fit any particular place, you must send me the exact measure of the place.

Your sister as you used to call her is much your servant, she has been at the Bath for some time, she is better than when she went. I suppose you hear sometimes from our friend Mr. Pope, he has taken another voyage into Homer Land as Gay calls it, I wish he may make an advantageous voyage of it. I doubt you will say that since I was so long before I began to write, that now I have begun I do not know when to end, I will therefore tell you that I am, &c.

Postscript.—I desire your acceptance of a ring, a small remembrance of my father. How shall I send it you?

Copy.

APPENDIX.

MEMOIRS of the HARLEY Family, especially of ROBERT HARLEY, first EARL of OXFORD; by EDWARD HARLEY, Auditor of the Exchequer.

So various and wonderful have been the dispensations of the Almighty towards my most entirely beloved brother, the Earl of Oxford, that I think it would be ungrateful to Heaven, and an injury to posterity to suffer the knowledge and memory of them to be defaced by time and lost in oblivion; therefore, I will attempt to reduce into writing the particulars of what I am able to recollect.

And I would begin with adoration of the divine goodness that we sprung from such excellent parents, who from our infancy instructed and initiated us in all the principles of sincere piety and virtue. Sir Edward Harley, our father, may be truly said to have had all the accomplishments of a gentleman, his features were very exact, and he had great quickness in his eyes which commanded respect; his temper was naturally very passionate, though mixed with the greatest tenderness and humanity. His passion he kept under a strict restraint, and had in a manner totally subdued, but his generosity and tender compassion to all objects of charity continued to his last.

Having passed the education of his youth through the two schools of Gloucester and Shrewsbury, and at the university of Oxford, he was chosen into Parliament in the reign of Charles I, for the county of Hereford, not being then eighteen years old. He took the Parliament's side upon no other view (as I have often heard him say) but a sincere regard for the laws and liberties of his country, which by his actions in a short time became very evident; for though he took the command of a regiment of horse, and received a shot (which remained in his body to his death), and though the Castles of Brampton and Wigmore were burnt, and his estate laid waste to the value of sixty thousand pounds in a most barbarous manner by the king's party, yet when the faction in the army had prevailed to baffle all overtures of peace, and had begun to form the scheme of a military Government, he first opposed the intrigues of Cromwell in the army, and afterwards openly in the House of Commons, for which he, with the Lord Denzil Holles and others, was impeached, and during the whole time of Cromwell's tyranny was forced to live as a proscribed person.

Sir Robert Harley was turned out from being Master of the Mint for refusing to coin money after the King was beheaded, and after that when Bradshaw was Chief Justice of Chester, and came to pay him a visit at Ludlow, he ordered the doors to be shut against him.

Upon the Restoration of Charles II., Sir Edward was made Governor of Dunkirk, having been named several weeks before, and pressed to accept of it, but would not till the King landed at Dover, and returning back with him to Canterbury he had there his commission signed and from Canterbury went directly to take possession, that the town might not fall into the hands of the French. He so continued till the

French faction had prevailed with the King to sell it to France. The French having during his government often attempted to take it by surprise, which Marshal Schomberg owned to Sir E. Harley, when he came over with the Prince of Orange at the Revolution. It being known that he would refuse to deliver up the town to the French king, he was removed from the government of it, in which he had behaved himself with so much honour and integrity. King Charles II. often expressed his great esteem of him for having saved above ten thousand pounds in the contingencies and other extraordinaries of the garrison, which was entirely under his own management; he paid the same into the Exchequer, which I have often heard the old Earl of Macclesfield mention as a very bad precedent for commanding officers.

There are also other very extraordinary instances of his generosity. Sir Henry Lingen having besieged the Castle and burnt the town of Brampton, and laid waste the estate, Sir Henry Lingen's estate was laid under sequestration, and the profits thereof ordered to be applied to make satisfaction to Sir E. Harley. After an inventory of all the goods and personal estate of Sir H. Lingen was taken, Sir E. Harley waited upon the Lady Lingen, and having asked her whether that was a perfect inventory, he presented it to her with all his right to the same.

Another instance is that of Mr. Smith, who being nearly related to the family, cousin german and a ward, was committed to the guardianship of Sir Robert Harley, and having contracted many debts by his extravagance, Sir E. Harley advised him to charge his estate with the payment thereof, which he could not do without barring the entail. Some time after, falling ill of a consumption, he made his will, and gave all his estate to Sir E. Harley, charged only with the payment of his debts and a few legacies, and soon after dying, Sir E. Harley gave up his estate to Mr. Smith, his next heir at law.

A third instance of his generosity is his giving yearly out of his estate, about 180*l.* for augmenting the vicarages and rectories of Brampton, Leintwardine, Wigmore, Leintall, Lingen, and Knighton, and Stow, and rebuilding the church at Brampton.

During the whole reign of Charles II. he was a member of that Parliament called the Pension Parliament, and of those that succeeded it. As he never complied with the corrupt measures of that Court, so he never entered into those of the Lord Shaftesbury and other persons,* who under pretence of serving the public were pursuing their own private interests and revenge. Though he had vigorously opposed all the acts for persecuting the Dissenters, and the Act that made the Sacrament a civil test† yet when King James came to the Crown, and set up his dispensing power, he endeavoured to prevail with Bishop Croft,‡ and with all the Dissenters in those parts not to read the King's declaration, nor make any address upon it, and foreseeing the King would attempt to set up Popery, he declined all

* Here may be inserted the practices that were used by the Earl of Shaftesbury and others in driving on the Bill of Exclusion and bringing their party to refuse all offers made by the Earl of Danby in behalf of the Court in securing the nation from Popery and arbitrary power. Insert the offers made to Sir E. Harley.—*Note in margin of MS.*

† The Test was a contrivance of the Earl of Shaftesbury, Dr. Tillotson, and others.—*Note in margin.*

‡ See the Papers that passed between Bishop Croft and Sir E. H., and also a letter on the same subject from Floyd, Bishop of Worcester, to the Earl of Oxford, 1712.—*Note in margin.*

manner of public employments, and neither he nor any of his family ever took any oath to that king. His house was often searched for arms, and he with others confined prisoners in Hereford, being very unhandsomely treated by some,* who since the Revolution, have charged him and his family with being Jacobites. Though he was a favourer of such as dissented from the Church for conscience' sake, and though sometimes he went to hear Mr. Baxter and others in London, yet he constantly attended the Church, having by the grace of God, and a constant reading of the Scriptures attained to a very Christian temper, and therefore never engaged in the narrow principles with which the several parties in the Church had embroiled themselves and the nation.

During the whole reign of King James, he weekly spent the greatest part of one day, either alone, or with some of his family, in imploring the mercies of Heaven, that the storm which then seemed to be falling on the nation might be averted. Popery at that time appeared barefaced, and had by the violence of the Jesuits so far engaged the zeal of the unfortunate King James for the establishment of the Romish religion, that the nation universally united to oppose him, although supported by a standing army. The trial of the Bishops and other illegal and extravagant proceedings alienated the hearts of all his Protestant subjects, so that though he was at the head of an army of above 30,000 men, yet the Prince of Orange marched from Exeter to London more like a traveller than the general of an army, meeting with little or no opposition between Exeter and London.

The Revolution must be owned as a most surprising instance of God's dominion in the world, that a King, master of so great an army and fleet, and possessed of a revenue, able to maintain both, should first quit his army at Salisbury, when of that army not 500 men, either officers or soldiers, had deserted to the Prince of Orange. This particular I have reason to know, having an opportunity of observing the whole Dutch army upon Salisbury plains, which consisted of no more than 13,500 regimental men, the account of which I many years after stated and delivered into the House of Commons; and it is not less surprising that that unfortunate King should first send away his Queen and son, and ran away himself in a poor fisher boat, and cast his great seal into the Thames, when it is apparent by what happened afterwards, that had he stayed, the greatest loss he could have sustained would have been that of Popery and arbitrary power.

Insert here the debates in the Houses of Lords and Commons upon settling the Crown.

Upon the first appearance of the Revolution, Sir E. Harley sent me, his second son, to London to buy arms, and to transmit to him the best intelligence I could get, which, during the greatest part of King's James's reign, I weekly sent to him by a method of writing not to be discovered, having for no great sum of money obtained the secrets of Court from Monsieur Leon, a foreign Minister [see if Leon's letters can be found at Brampton], who got his intelligence by money from the priests or from the secretary's office. In less than nine days I bought pistols and carbines sufficient for two troops of horse, and sent them into the country, and being thoroughly convinced that the

* Here may be inserted the barbarous treatment he had by Sir Herbert Croft and other deputy-lieutenants, in sending part of a troop of horse to seize a pair of pistols given him by Lord Vere as a memorial; tho se being the pistols with which he charged at the battle of Newport.—*Note in margin.*

religion and liberties of the nation were then at stake, I acted without the least fear and less caution than I ought; having endeavoured to engage my acquaintance in the City to exert themselves upon this occasion, notwithstanding all their pretended zeal, for the Protestant religion, with which the citizens have made so much noise for many years, I don't know one man among them that ran any hazard to the value of twenty shillings.

Apprehending myself discovered in buying arms, I got out of London and overtook Colonel Birch at Wickham, from whence we went to Wallingford out of all roads, which was the only bridge standing betwixt Oxford and London; from thence we went to Salisbury, keeping no road, and by a signal Providence escaped being taken by a party of King James's horse. We met the Prince at Salisbury, where he was come that night. Having upon the road mentioned to Colonel Birch, the securing the passage over the Thames at Wallingford Bridge, he took the hint, and proposed the same to the Prince, and that in order to secure it 500 Dragoons should be thrown into Wallingford and that at the same time the garrison in Reading, consisting of Irish foot, should be alarmed by a regiment of horse; but the Prince told him that the route of the army was settled to march to Oxford, to which Birch replied, that, Sir, is not the way to London, and if you give the King's army time to recover from their present consternation, it will not be possible for your troops to stand before the King's army, who will certainly fight, if once blood be drawn upon them by foreigners.

The Colonel pressing this matter with much earnestness, the Prince directed him to attend Duke Schomberg, who being convinced by Birch's reason advised the altering the route of the army; and Reading being faced by a regiment of Dutch horse, and Eppinger's Dragoons taking post at Wallingford, after a slight skirmish the Irish abandoned Reading, where a few men were killed.

I mention this so particularly because there is no person now living besides myself that knows or has taken notice of this circumstance. From Salisbury, I went directly into Herefordshire, and met my father at Stoke, he and my brother having raised a troop of horse at their own charge; with them, I went the next day to Worcester, where we joined Mr. Foley and other gentlemen, of which place, by consent of the gentlemen, Sir E. Harley was made Governor; during which time some parties having brought in the plunder of horses and other things, he ordered all that could be seized to be restored, except a blasphemous image of the Holy Trinity, which he ordered to be broken to pieces in the open street. Here we had the alarm of the Irish, which by three expresses came within the compass of an hour, one from Shrewsbury, one from Gloucester, and a third from Ludlow; all bringing the same representation of their near approach to them, though from such distant places. But by his great care and prudence, that very populous city was kept in absolute quiet, which perhaps was the only one throughout the kingdom that did not feel the shocks of this consternation. King James being gone, the men were paid off.

The Convention being summoned, Sir E. Harley was unanimously chosen into that Parliament for the county of Hereford, and instead of seeking for any place or recompense for his charge, as all others did, he wholly applied himself to the obtaining such laws as might be of service to the public, by whose means the act was obtained for abolishing the arbitrary Court of the Marches of Wales. The insuffer-

able avarice and insolence of the Dutch Ministers quickly appeared, and met with all the support that the obsequious flattery and baseness of both parties could contribute, which met with some opposition in the House of Commons.* That Parliament was dissolved, in the second Session, with displeasure, and the Court fell into measures to keep such out of Parliament. Among others, directions were given to prevent Sir E. Harley and his son being chosen in the ensuing Parliament, which was undertaken by the now Lord Coningsby, and Sir Rowland Gwynne, in the which they succeeded against Sir E. Harley, by most base and perfidious artifices and particularly by raising an universal and ridiculous clamour of his being an enemy to the Church. Gwynne procured himself to be returned, Mr. [Robert] Harley petitioned, and was voted duly elected. Sir John Morgan, who was an officer in the army, dying in less than nine months, Sir E. Harley without the least application from himself or family was unanimously chosen for the county of Hereford, and in this and the succeeding Parliaments, constantly opposed the extravagant ways that were then taking for running the nation into debt, and the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. This drew upon him and his family the implacable rage of the Lord Wharton, Lord Somers, and the other Whigs of their party, who had in many instances deserted, what they called Revolution principles. See the pamphlets wrote by Ben Overton.†

Though Sir E. Harley was perfectly acquainted with the characters of men, yet in public he always avoided saying anything that might in the least prejudice the reputation of any person. His conversation was very entertaining, having read a great deal of history, and having a memory that retained what he read. The two or three last years of his life he declined being in Parliament; so exemplary was his virtue and love to his country that he was called by some very discerning persons *Ultimus Anglorum*.

My mother was a person of most exemplary piety and absolutely free from all those passions with which the female sex do so commonly disturb themselves and others. She had religion with a most discerning judgment without the least affectation, and took all fitting occasions from our youth to instruct us in principles of religion, virtue and honour, which she did in so tender a manner that I well remember that her discourses on these subjects made a very deep impression. My mother died in the year 1688, just before the Revolution, and my father in the end of the year 1700, just before the great changes that happened in Europe by the death of the King of Spain.‡

From which time I shall endeavour to recollect several remarkable occurrences, relating to my brother, the Earl of Oxford, going back

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* Here may be inserted the opposition made by Sacheverell, Garraway, and others against the measures taken by the Court, for running the nation into a war with France. Here may also be inserted their rejecting an Address for this purpose, their taking Phraser, the printer, into custody for printing the same. —*Note in margin.*

† Here should be inserted the methods that were taken for running the nation into debt, by raising funds and plunging all the supplies of the Government under vast discounts; whereby a dependence was created upon the Ministers and great estates got. Here insert all the particulars of the Land Bank, by what artifices the same was defeated, with the consequence of disposing the salt Tallies at fifty per cent. discount. The Bill brought in by Sir E. H. for settling the Militia.—*Note in margin.*

‡ Here insert the villainous attempt of Mr. Thomas Lewis and Nurse Lewis his brother to murder Mr. Harley in the streets of Radnor, both drawing their swords at once.—*Note in margin.*

only for a few years wherein the Earl of Oxford had signalized himself,* and particularly of that great occurrence of disbanding the army upon the peace of Ryswick, the whole management of that great affair being left to his conduct in the House of Commons, he being the person that first proposed the question, which was carried by a great majority notwithstanding the endeavours of the Court to keep up the army of which to the number of 30,000 men lay quartered within a day's march of London. As his unshaken resolution and conduct in this affair gave him a great reputation among the country party, so it exposed him to the rage and calumny of those who had basely deserted the interests of their country in this great point, upon which the liberties of England did so much depend.

King William growing weary of the insolence of those that were called the Junto Whigs, made a change in his Ministry, and though Mr. Harley had appeared so publicly in the acts for disbanding the army, the Treason and Triennial Bills, which were all carried in spite of the opposition of the Court, yet King William was pleased often to send for him and with great freedom to speak to him of matters of the greatest consequence. King William twice offered him to be Secretary, and to be Auditor of the Receipts.

The Parliament being dissolved in the year 1701, he was chosen Speaker. The convulsions that were raised all over Europe by the death of the King of Spain put that Parliament upon inquiring into the partition treaty, which was generally thought to be the occasion of the King of Spain's will, whereby that Crown was devised to one of the House of Bourbon. This raised so great a ferment in that Parliament, that the Court Whig party to screen themselves laid the whole blame upon the Dutch Ministers, who, to avoid the storm breaking upon themselves, employed Mr. Secretary Vernon and others to instruct several members what papers to call for, which drew on the impeachments of Lord Halifax, Lord Somers, &c., which the Speaker endeavoured by all means to prevent; but the ferment was raised too high for his skill and application to prevent this unhappy step; which, as almost all other Parliamentary prosecutions, tended only to expose the personal malice and folly of the impeachers, and soon after ended in the dissolution of that Parliament.

His attending the King, in relation to the succession, and other matters, I must refer to his memory, not being acquainted with the particulars.

This Parliament being dissolved in October, a new one was called to meet the 29th of December following; the Court entered into measures quite contrary to those that had been taken the year before, and were resolved to try their strength in the ensuing Parliament, upon the choice of the Speaker, the Junto having resolved to keep Mr. Harley from the chair, and spared no pains in their solicitations either by threats or promises, and though the Parliament was to meet in the middle of Christmas, yet the members came up from all parts, so that Mr. Harley was chosen Speaker, by a majority of 14. This proved a great mortification to the party, though the King himself was easy at it.

The King dying March, 1702, that Parliament was soon after

* Here insert the part that he took in opposing the settlement of the Funds Bank and other methods that were taken in the beginning of King William's reign, by which the nation was involved in debt. His conference with King William about taking Toulon.—*Note in margin.*

dissolved, and in the ensuing, he was again chosen Speaker without opposition. During the time of his being in the chair, there were many very long debates, which often held till ten or eleven at night; his perfect knowledge of the orders of the House prevented all debates about order, or the wording of questions, which he did with that exact readiness that he left no room for any dispute.

The manner of his being first introduced to the Princess, and afterwards into her immediate service of Secretary of State, when she was Queen, I must refer to his memory, and the several letters that passed between the Lord Treasurer Godolphin and him on that subject, in one of which, that I have seen, he presses him with the greatest earnestness not to decline the acceptance of the seals of the Secretary of State. It is certain no person since the time of Secretary Walsingham ever had better intelligence or employed more money to procure it. He had not been long in that office, till the Lord Godolphin perceived the Queen's particular esteem and regard for him, which raised an incurable jealousy in that Lord, who had assumed the whole administration of affairs, under the influence of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. As the Queen's affections were daily cooled to that Duchess by her insufferable haughtiness, so the Queen took all occasions to let Mr. Harley know her great confidence in him. This still inflamed their jealousy, and in the year 1706, after the battle of Ramilies, and Barcelona, having advised the Queen to command the Duke of Marlborough to march into France, when there was no army to oppose him, or else to hearken to the overtures of peace, that were then made by France, telling the Queen that nothing could be so fatal to her people as the carrying on a lingering war, which must destroy the trade and exhaust the strength of her kingdom.

From this time the Duke and his friends made their utmost efforts for the removal of Mr. Harley, but so firmly was the Queen possessed of his fidelity to her, that she plainly told him she would rather part with the Duke of Marlborough and her Treasurer; this continued for many months. About December, 1708, Greg, a clerk in Mr. Harley's office, had wrote some letters to France, which being intercepted, they endeavoured with the utmost malice to turn this upon Mr. Harley, who in the very discovery manifested his own innocency and dexterity, declining after the discovery to seize him by his own authority, himself charging him with the fact before the Lords of the Cabinet Council, and immediately bringing him to a confession of the same. See the manner of his being seized, and the story of Nic. Man's to give him notice to go away. He was tried and condemned in the beginning of January. The Queen still remaining resolute not to part with Mr. Harley, all manner of practices were used with this unhappy man to bring him to accuse his master. Finding that the Queen slighted whatever was said against Mr. Harley on the subject, George Churchill was engaged to prevail with Prince George to represent to the Queen, that she must either part with the Duke of Marlborough or Mr. Harley and to persuade her of the ill consequence which that would be in regard of her foreign affairs. She having intimated something of this to Mr. Harley, he prevailed with her Majesty to allow him to give up the seals, which he did in the beginning of February, 1708; and the next day after, Sir Simon Harcourt, Attorney-General, Mr. Mansel, Comptroller, and Mr. St. John, Secretary of War, resigned their offices.

The reluctancy which the Queen expressed upon her parting with

Mr. Harley, being a sure indication of her regard to him, so far exasperated the Duke of Marlborough and the Junto, that they resolved upon his ruin, in order to which a secret committee of Lords [here insert the Lords' names] were chosen to examine Greg in Newgate, then under sentence of death, and though he had often declared before the Lords of the Cabinet that Mr. Harley was no way privy to his correspondence with France, yet several persons were employed to prevail upon Greg to accuse his master, being promised his life, and a pension of 200*l.* a year.

[Insert here the papers taken from Greg's own mouth by Mr. Palmer and Mr. Stanhope. The paper delivered at his execution, what he said to his wife and others. Here also should be inserted the villanous practices of Sir Charles Piers, the then Sheriff, and others upon the day of his execution, which was the 28th of April.]

Upon the review of the whole matter, it must be owned as a most miraculous instance of the Divine Providence, that a man discovered, accused and brought to confession by his master, should neither, by fear of death, nor promises of life and a pension to support it, be prevailed upon to comply with the vile solicitations of so many great men then in power.

While the emissaries of this committee of Lords were employed to persuade Greg, some of them undertook the drawing up of a report stuffed with all the stories and lies that their malice could invent, which was after published as Greg's confession, and sent all over the Kingdom. At the same time Mr. Vallier, who had been employed by Mr. Harley to get intelligence in France (and was the person that brought the first account of the defeat of the French army before Turin) was taken up, clapped into Newgate, and there kept for four months without any persons having access to him, being in a dark room. Many artifices were used to prevail with him to accuse Mr. Harley by the Lords Inquisitors, but after many examinations, Vallier told the Lord Treasurer that he knew very well for what he was confined, but that he would sooner be torn in pieces by horses than do so vile a thing. At the same time also Captain Henry Baker, a most abandoned villain, was employed to search for evidence, and so forward was he in his work, that he got together half a score persons from the coasts of Kent and other places to corroborate the hoped-for accusation of Greg and Vallier; this villain over a bottle of wine said plainly that Mr. Harley knew too much to live, and therefore they must have his head, cost what it would, for which afterwards he brought in his account to the Auditor's office, wherein he claimed a great sum for the money he had expended in this diabolical service.

During this whole transaction, I never observed the least discomposure in Mr. Harley; coming to him one morning, I met with Dr. Atterbury, the now Bishop of Rochester, upon the stairs. He took me aside, and said, "Your brother's head is upon the block, and yet he seems to have no concern about it, you should therefore persuade him to do something that may prevent the impending danger." This, I told my brother, who said, "I know nothing that I can do, but entirely to be resigned to, and confide in the Providence of God."

During this whole session of Parliament, and the next, the House was perpetually amused with the great discoveries they had made by letters that were intercepted of Mr. Harley, but some members demanding a sight of these letters, this black scene was closed.

Soon after this, the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Godolphin found

their new favourites, the Junto Lords, were forming schemes, and preparing accusations against them, to prevent which they found themselves necessitated to prepare a Bill of Indemnity with all privacy and to have it sent down to the House without the least previous notice. I well remember Mr. Harley came into the House, while the Bill was reading, and immediately made his bow to the Speaker, and withdrew, saying aloud, "Let those that want an indemnity stay and hear it read, I neither want, nor desire it."

[Here ought to be inserted the messages and letters, that were sent and written by the Queen's direction to Mr. Harley, between the time of his giving up the seals, and his being commanded by the Queen into her service, 1710.]

It appeared in the session of Parliament beginning in the end of November, 1709, that the Whigs were forming a scheme against the Lord Treasurer Godolphin and the Duke of Marlborough, who found themselves invested now with so much power, that they thought it a proper time to take the Ministry into their own hands. In order to this, Mr. Paterson and others were employed to take an account of the public debts, and to represent the miserable condition the nation was brought into, Paterson following the directions of the Lord Somers and the Lord Wharton in this matter, as he told me when I once met him in the Privy Garden, when he said, that this whole affair should be laid before the House of Commons; but before the Junto Lords would come to an open breach with the Treasurer (whom they insulted every day), they thought it was necessary to prevent his retreat to the Church party, and therefore put him upon encouraging the impeachment of Dr. Sacheverell, which was pushed on with all imaginable violence. This raised such a ferment in the nation that the Treasurer used his endeavours to have it dropped; especially after the House of Commons had resolved that the trial should be public in Westminster Hall, which was first intended to have been at the bar of the House of Lords; but the Lord Wharton and others were resolved not to let him go back. Mr. Harley was at Brampton when this impeachment was brought in, and did not come to town till just before the trial.

[Here should be inserted the negotiations of the Duke of Somerset, Shrewsbury, and others in this matter.]

Upon the first day of the trial, the Whigs were surprised to find that the people or mob as they called them were entirely turned against them,* upon whose interests and affections they pretended ever since the Revolution to this time to value themselves, having by newspapers, pamphlets and speeches in Parliament, magnified their power, and to whom upon all occasions they appealed; but to their great mortification, they found the whole body of the common people of London enraged at the prosecution of the Doctor, and accordingly turned their first fury upon the Dissenting meeting-houses, which the persons then in power might easily have prevented, which 'tis supposed they did not, upon the expectation that the extravagancies of the mob would afford them a handle for their destruction. The Queen, who was very averse to this prosecution, expressed her uneasiness at it; and the haughtiness of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough were come to such a height,

* *Note in margin.* Insert the many practices that they used to raise the mob, and bring them down to the House of Commons, and the particular instance of Mr. Harley passing through the mob in Westminster Hall which was brought thither to tear him in pieces.

that the Queen could no longer brook it, and therefore came to a resolution to free herself by the change of her Ministry. [The previous steps of this, I must refer to Lord Oxford and the whole transaction of it.] As for myself I must own I looked upon the difficulties as insuperable, and did more than once persuade him to decline meddling with the affairs of the Treasury; having mentioned this to him he told me, he saw the great difficulties he was to contend with, and his own hazard therein. He had promised the Queen, and could not go back.

When he came into the Treasury he found the Exchequer almost empty, nothing left for the subsistence of the Army, but some tallies upon the third general mortgage of the customs; the Queen's civil list near 700,000*l.* in debt; the funds all exhausted, and a debt of 9,500,000*l.*, without any provision of Parliament; which had brought all the credit of the Government to a vast discount. In this condition the nation had then in pay 255,689 men. All these particulars appear by the papers left in the Treasury, by the Earl of Godolphin, of which I now have the authentic copies; and of which the Lord Godolphin made great use in prevailing with the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Chancellor Cowper, Mr. Secretary Boyle, and others not to continue in their places, as they had been courted to do by the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Harley. Besides these difficulties, the Bank, stock jobbers, and moneyed men of the city were all engaged to sink the credit of the Government, which they did so effectually that Navy bills and others were sold at forty and forty-five per cent. discount.

The Duke of Marlborough was then in Flanders at the head of a great army, and all the confederate Princes entirely under his influence by the vast advantages they had from England in the pay of their troops and other extraordinaries; besides which the Dutch were not only suffered to have the whole advantage of the conquered country in Flanders, but also were connived at, in not maintaining their quotas in Flanders, and entirely abandoning the war in Spain, the whole expense of which fell upon England. [See here the "Conduct of the Allies" and "State of war and peace."]

These are some of the difficulties Mr. Harley had to struggle with, which both his friends and enemies thought insurmountable, for the Lord Godolphin at a meeting at the Duke of Devonshire's house, where were present the Lord Cowper, Mr. Secretary Boyle, and others, having laid before them the present state of the Treasury, whereby it appeared that the civil list was then in debt, 700,000*l.* &c., [as above stated]; and he added to all this his dream, that he saw Mr. Harley in a sculler alone rowing against wind and tide without any person to assist him; and then he left it to those Lords to determine how long it was possible for one man to support an administration surrounded with such difficulties. This brought all these Lords to the resolution of quitting their employments. [See the letters which passed between the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Cowper, Lord Halifax, &c.]

The Lord Godolphin's dream, whether real or feigned, proved true in this. For many of those from whom Mr. Harley had reason to expect all assistance, did either by humour or design embarrass as far as in them lay the measures he was taking.

I cannot here omit one particular circumstance, which makes this very evident. Being alone at dinner one day with Mr. Harley, Dr. Atterbury, now Bishop of Rochester, came in to us; after some compliments, he told Mr. Harley that he came from some of his particular friends to acquaint him how very uneasy they were at his conduct,

that the Parliament was not yet dissolved, nor so many of the Whigs turned out as was expected, and that they were wholly in the dark as to the measures he was taking, which had created a very great uneasiness, and that out of his friendship, he had acquainted him with it. This was the only time I ever saw Mr. Harley express any passion in public affairs. He told the Doctor he knew very well the persons from whom he delivered the message, and was so sensible of the difficulties he had to struggle with, that nothing but his duty and promise to the Queen could make him be concerned any further; and therefore desired he would let those persons know that if they expected he should communicate all the measures he thought were absolutely necessary for conducting the Queen's affairs over the difficulties he would let her Majesty know that it was impossible for him to be of any further service, and therefore would ask leave to retire into the country. This warm answer allayed this spirit for some time; and he then proceeded to provide money for the army in Flanders, which he did in so extraordinary a manner that both friends and enemies were surprised at it. [Here insert the particular measures that were taken for procuring the great remittance which amounted to 300,000*l.*, and the letters from the Duke of Marlborough that the army was never better paid; and also the letters from the Pensionary.]

This step, as it gave a great reputation to the Treasury at home and revived credit abroad, so it raised the indignation of the Junto party to sink the stocks and the public credit to the lowest. Immediately after this the Queen broke through all the schemes of the Duke of Somerset and others for preventing the dissolution of the Parliament, which was dissolved in September, 1710; and a new one chosen; and Mr. Bromley, a person of great honour and integrity, chosen Speaker without opposition.

The Parliament immediately voted supplies for maintaining the full number of men by sea and land, being in hopes these vigorous resolutions would bring France to make peace, or enable the Queen to force one upon them; and to prevent any disgust among the Allies the Queen continued the Duke of Marlborough her General, with all the power and authority he ever enjoyed. [See here the printed accounts of the proceedings of the Parliament.]

The greatest difficulty of this session was the raising of money and finding funds for so vast a sum, especially at this juncture, when all the faction of the Whigs exerted their utmost endeavours to obstruct the raising of the money that had been voted. The year before, being 1710, a lottery was enacted for raising 1,500,000*l.*, though this never was filled, yet the raising the money by a lottery was the only way left. Funds with great application being found for 1,500,000*l.*, the Parliament voted it should be raised by way of another lottery. The scheme for doing it was left by the Treasury to Mr. Lowndes, who fell into the same method as was attempted in the Earl of Godolphin's treasurership. The credit of the administration depending so much upon the raising this money, Mr. E. Harley concerned himself herein, and proposed a scheme very different from that of Mr. Lowndes, which he called unintelligible, and was with great difficulty brought to comply with it. Though the cashiers of the Bank were appointed receivers of this money, yet the Directors and all the faction of the Whigs set themselves by all wicked artifices to oppose the filling of this Lottery. Mr. Harley, having discovered this, proposed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that Mr. J. Blunt, who had been concerned in forming

the scheme with himself, should take in subscriptions to this Lottery, and in five days' time managed this affair in such a manner, that the Directors of the Bank, supposing that Mr. Harley, and Mr. Blunt had received so much money as would near fill the Lottery, the very day before the time appointed for opening the subscription writ so much into it, that when the sum received came to be cast up, there appeared 300,000*l.* over writ. This strangely surprised all the faction and occasioned great quarrels and disputes among those who had set themselves to obstruct the raising this money, when they found themselves excluded. This happening to be upon the 7th day of March, the day before Mr. Harley by his wound from Guiscard was disabled from attending the Treasury, it was proposed, by the Lord Halifax and others, that 1,500,000*l.* more should be raised upon the same scheme, but the Auditor, finding the temper of the moneyed people, apprehended it would be necessary to vary the method, and thereupon had the scheme of the Class Lottery formed; and proposed to his brother the 2,000,000*l.*, which was the whole sum necessary for that year's supply upon the scheme of the Class Lottery. This was thought a very hazardous undertaking, and therefore to prevent any further artifices of the Bank, the Auditor proposed taking in subscriptions by himself, Mr. J. Blunt, and the four Tellers of the Exchequer. This method proved so successful that the Auditor in nine days' time received notes for, 1,600,000*l.*, and Blunt and the Tellers of the Exchequer having received large subscriptions the Auditor was perplexed how to reduce the subscription he had taken, so as to make room for those taken by the Tellers of the Exchequer and Blunt, and to avoid any imputation of his concerning himself for his own lucre, kept no more for himself than 500*l.*, although he might have got a great sum. [Here may be inserted the prosecution of the Auditor in King George's reign upon the pretence that one of his clerks took three shillings and four pence for entering a letter of Attorney relating to the Class Lottery.]

Upon the 7th of March, Mr. Harley, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a Committee of the whole House, stated the debt that was then upon the nation, for which there was no provision, and that the Navy, Victualling, and Transport Bills, were then under a discount of forty-five per cent.; that therefore it was absolutely necessary that the House should fall into some method for finding a fund for this great debt, which amounted to above 9,000,000*l.*, and concluded with a motion that the House should grant a supply for this purpose. The Whigs then in the House treated it with the utmost ridicule, pleasing themselves that the Chancellor had made a proposal which in itself was impossible, and that therefore it must turn to his own shame and confusion. Upon which the Earl of Godolphin said the Chancellor had hung a millstone about his own neck.

While he lay ill of his wound, his brother proceeded in forming the Act for the South Sea Company, in which no assistance was received from the Offices principally concerned in the debt, and for many reasons it was absolutely necessary to conceal the methods of doing it till the Bill was perfected, which the day before the Chancellor returned to the House, was laid before forty or fifty of the members, who entirely approved of it, and were extremely pleased as well as surprised that such an unexceptionable method could be found to ease the Government from a debt, which by the vast discounts must in a short time have sunk the nation, or disabled it from keeping

any Fleet, or carrying on the war. When the Bill was brought into the House, several of both parties set themselves to embarrass it, thinking it would be too great a credit to the Chancellor to accomplish so vast an undertaking, but the scheme and Bill were formed with so much exactness that there was little room left for their cavils. As to that part which relates to the trade to the South Seas, it was formed upon a view of their carrying it on by force, and therefore the Parliament gave this Company 8,000*l.* per annum to support this charge. The fatal mistake that had been made in carrying on the war in Spain, instead of preventing the French trade to the South Seas, then clearly appearing, as soon as the Act was passed, and the Company settled, the avarice, ingratitude, and perverseness of the proprietors of the vast debt soon appeared, the majority of which instead of complying with what was necessary for the ease of the Government, and the advantage of the Company, set themselves to embarrass everything that was proposed for supporting the credit of this Company, and advancing their real interest. This baseness fully appeared after the peace of Utrecht, by which the sole trade to the Spanish West Indies was vested in this Company, exclusive of all other nations except Spaniards; but such was the factious perverseness of some of the Directors, that were named by the Queen's Charter, that they often in their Court endeavoured to represent the whole trade as a useless unprofitable thing. The Auditor observing this, with great indignation proposed that they should immediately draw up a representation to the Queen, to let Her Majesty know their sitting there as a Corporation was only the keeping up a great charge upon the Government, without any advantage to the nation, and that therefore they should come to a resolution to surrender their Charter; for if the trade were of no value, their taking salaries for the management of it was a cheat and a gross imposition upon the nation, for as to the payment of the interest to the proprietors, he would undertake it should be done by two clerks for 200*l.* a year. The apprehension of this silenced these mercenary fellows.

During my continuing a Director among them, I met with so much perverseness and self-interest that all my concerns with them were attended with nothing but vexation, although I had been at great expense both of time and money for the settling of this Company; but would I have complied with some schemes for getting this trade into private hands, and consenting that the Company should quit this trade, I might at once have got a very great sum, which I absolutely declined, upon the prospect that the Company at last would be induced to carry on this trade to a much greater advantage to the nation than hitherto they had done.

The effect of thus providing for the debt soon appeared. The stores and victuals for the Navy, which had cost upwards of 100*l.* were bought for 50*l.*, and now it appeared that the Chancellor had overcome the difficulty which was thought by his friends and enemies insuperable. As the settlement of this Company raised the credit of the Government both at home and abroad, so the foundation was laid for great advantages in point of trade, which it is hoped the Parliament will sometime or other force them to carry on, especially that of the Fishery, upon which by the Act they are obliged to lay out 100,000*l.* What in the course of time next occurs is the wound received by Mr. Harley from Guiscard, which, as is before mentioned, was the day after he had proposed the question for raising a supply for the payment

of this great debt. Before I mention the particulars of this horrid fact, I would take notice what came to my knowledge concerning this person, which was thus:—In the end of October, a French minister, who came often to me for money for the Protestants then in the galleys in France, told me that two of their friends had been taken up and broken upon the wheel for being concerned in an intended rising that was to have been in Dauphiny upon the appearance of the English fleet on that coast, and said that they were betrayed by the Marquis de Guiscard, who was intrusted with the secret of that expedition; he said it was very strange that the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Godolphin should intrust a man of so vile a character, and not only give him a regiment and the pay of a Major-General, but also procure for him a pension from the Queen, and that it was more extraordinary that he should now have such intimacy with Mr. Secretary St. John, at whose office he was every day. The first opportunity I had, I acquainted the Chancellor of the Exchequer with this, who seemed to take very little notice of it, but in about a month after, he asked me if I remembered what I had said to him concerning Guiscard; he then said that he had intercepted his letters which was a matter of great consequence to the Government, in which were contained some things which could be discovered to him by none but those which were of the Queen's Cabinet Council. Many of these letters were intercepted, but upon the 8th of March, 1710-11, being the day of the Queen's inauguration, Mr. Harley going over the park in his chair, and seeing Guiscard walking in the Mall, told the Queen that it would then be a proper time to seize him, which was accordingly done. [Here insert the particulars of this horrid fact, Guiscard's going to the Queen's baker, and to Mr. Lingen of the Ewery.]

The resolution and firmness of mind with which Mr. Harley received this stroke, are what even his most inveterate enemies have not pretended to deny. His wound was at first thought mortal, and must have been so, had the penknife not broken, and had not Guiscard been deprived by the change of his clothes that day of the dagger he usually carried about him; for coming to St. James's, and finding the Court out of mourning, he went immediately to his lodgings, and changed his clothes. I cannot here omit that after I had engaged Dr. Radcliffe to take care of my brother, I went to Secretary St. John's office, and from thence to his house, in order to get a warrant for seizing Guiscard's papers at a private lodging of his in Bloomsbury; but at neither place was he to be found, so that time enough was given for removing all Guiscard's papers, which might have made a very considerable discovery. It is not here to be omitted with what industry Secretary St. John took care to have it published that Guiscard's design was against himself; and if the intimacy of Guiscard with him be considered, there was a great deal of reason for his throwing out this amusement. [See the paper from the Earl of Oxford to the Queen printed in the Inquisitor's report.] The little care that was taken to preserve Guiscard's life, especially after he had told some of the Lords of the Cabinet, that if he might be secure of his pardon he could discover *un sort terrible:* gives a just reason to suspect that there were some persons very much afraid of his recovery, but his death in Newgate drew a veil of darkness over all the villany of this man, and those persons that employed him. [See Guiscard's letter to an officer in Ireland, dated Tuesday, March 8.] The day after this wound, the Chancellor finding himself extremely ill, and in great pain, told me

that the expedition which was then fitting out, he apprehended, might be of very ill consequence to the Queen's affairs at that time, and directed me to desire the Lord Poulett to acquaint the Lord Rochester, then President of the Council, that it was his dying request that he would advise the Queen that it might be laid aside. This was the unfortunate expedition to Canada, which had been projected and resolved upon in the Lord Godolphin's time, and was to have been commanded by General Macartney. But Mr. Harley being now confined to his bed, Mr. Secretary St. John and others pushed on this matter with the utmost eagerness, having laid a scheme for securing themselves 20,000*l.* for buying clothes and other things for this Expedition, in which Mr. St. John and Arthur Moore were the principal sharers. [See Articles of Impeachment, and Lord Oxford's answer relating to this matter.] Mr. St. John and others now began to form a party against the Chancellor, while he lay ill of his wounds. This was carried on under the pretence that some person should be put at the head of the Church party, who would without reserve comply with all their passions. So fond were they of this scheme, that notwithstanding the present administration had all imaginable difficulties to contend with, yet a number of the Tory party were privately encouraged to embarrass any proposition that was necessary for raising supplies and supporting the Government. The Whigs perceiving this joined with them in putting the utmost difficulties upon the Government. During the time of the Chancellor's illness, some of the warmest of the Tories falling under the conduct of Secretary St. John, fully demonstrated the weakness and folly of depending upon party, who took this advantage to act all the follies that their enemies, the Whigs could have prescribed to them; but the payment of the armies abroad, and the finding funds and raising money upon the same in spite of all the endeavours that had been secretly used to prevent it, raised the character of the Chancellor too high for these weak attempts.

In the time of the Chancellor's confinement to his bed, the death of the Emperor raised a great apprehension of the ill consequences, which in that juncture might ensue from a new election. Some few days after this event was known, the late Duke of Newcastle sent for me to his house, and told me there had been a great Lord with him (whom I had reason to be assured was the Lord Somers), that they had both agreed in their sentiments that nothing in the present posture of affairs could establish the security of the Protestant religion, and the tranquillity of England, but Mr. Harley's taking the white staff, and thereby becoming the "Primere" Minister, and added that he had told the Queen that this was both his own and Lord Somers' opinion I gave the Duke my reasons why the Chancellor should decline this, and represented the envy and hazard that it must necessarily expose him to, upon which subjects often expostulating with his Grace he took occasion more than once to give me reason to believe that he intended to marry his only daughter to the Chancellor's son. The whole transaction of this affair I reserve to its proper time. The title of Oxford that had so long continued in the family of the Veres being lately extinct, the Duke of Newcastle proposed that the Chancellor should take that title, which he said no family had more pretence to than his own and the Chancellor's; and therefore had mentioned it to the Queen, which he said her Majesty had consented to. This being known, the Earl of Lindsey, encouraged thereto by the Lord Wharton and others, endeavoured to obstruct, and entered his claim before the

Duke of Newcastle, then Lord Privy Seal, but his Grace was so zealous in this matter that notwithstanding the caveat, he immediately passed the Bill for granting the title for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was so cautious in this matter, that to prevent any slur on her Majesty or himself, he took with it the title of Mortimer, to which family he was allied by blood. [Here insert the ancient alliances of these families.] Upon the day of April, the Chancellor returned to the House of Commons, upon which, by order of the House, the then Speaker congratulated his recovery in most honourable and obliging terms. [See here the votes and Mr. Bromley's speech.] Mr. Harley continued in the House of Commons till May 25th, 1711.

Upon the 29th of May, 1711, her Majesty constituted Mr. Harley her Lord High Treasurer; in a very short time after, the now Lady Masham intimated her Majesty's intention to give him the sum of 10,000*l.* in consideration of his fidelity and sufferings in her service. [The Duke of Newcastle, the first mover of this.] The Lord Oxford mentioning this to me, and making many objections against his receiving it, I told him both his friends and enemies would look upon his refusing it as an affected vanity, and since I knew he had laid out near as much as this sum came to, in her Majesty's service, I endeavoured to persuade him not to refuse this mark of her Majesty's favour; but the Queen's civil list being exhausted, he took it in Tin Tallies, which were then at a very great discount.

The next thing that occurs is the operations of the campaign under the Duke of Marlborough in Flanders, where he was at the head of a greater army than had been during the whole war, and which was paid with more exactness than it had been at any time; which ended only in taking of Bouchain, a small town. [Insert here the Duke of Marlborough's letters to the Lord Treasurer.] The Duke being sensible that both England and Holland were now in a manner exhausted, sent over the Earl of Stair with propositions to the Lord Treasurer to be laid before the Queen; wherein he represented the necessity of erecting magazines, for maintaining the troops on the Frontiers, whereby the armies might take the field next spring much sooner than it was possible for the French. These were immediately sent over to the Pensionary in Holland, but the States would not be induced to advance any sum towards this, although the Queen had upon the pressing instances of the Duke of Marlborough, granted the sum of 30,000*l.* for providing magazines. [See the Duke's letters wherein he expresses the necessity of this without which there could be no reasonable expectation of success the next campaign, and thanks to Lord Oxford for doing it.] The next thing that occurs, is the negotiation of peace begun by propositions from France. The whole transaction of this affair is referred to the Lord Oxford's answer to the Articles of Impeachment, the Queen's letters, Mr. Prior's, the Pensionary's, Monsieur Buys', and the Duke of Marlborough's letters, Prince Eugene's letters and negotiations. It must be observed that the overtures of peace came not from France till the close of the session of Parliament, when it fully appeared that the Treasurer had got over the great difficulty of paying the vast debt, and had effectually raised all the money for the current service of the next year.

In August, the Treasurer was most sensibly touched with the death of the Duke of Newcastle, who had always adhered to him with a very entire friendship. The situation things were then in with respect

to both parties made this to the Treasurer as the loss of a right hand. It is here proper to digress from the public affairs (making humble acknowledgments to Providence that brought about the marriage of his only son to that incomparable lady, the only daughter and heir of the Duke) to insert all the particulars that occur to me relating to that affair.

In the end of October, 1710, a proposition of a match was made to me with the only daughter of a very rich citizen, who proposed to give a very considerable fortune down, and to settle all his estate. In January, the gentleman desired to dine with my nephew at my house; a few days after the Duke of Newcastle sent for me, and after talking of public affairs, said, I hear you are making a match for your nephew; I told his Grace very frankly all that had passed; upon which the Duke was pleased to say, If you will be advised by me, I would not have you proceed any further in that matter, for your brother may marry his son much better than to any citizen's daughter. About six days after the Duke sent for me again, and told me he had some particular business that related to his own affairs, and therefore desired me to go to my brother that he would appoint some time when he might speak with him, which he did accordingly to the Duke's appointment, who showed him a letter from *(blank)*, which was a proposal of a match for his daughter. The Duke, having asked his opinion concerning it, said, I have several reasons not to hearken to it, for having no other child, I will please myself both in the person and the family. Mr. Butler, being one of the Duke's secretaries, writ me a letter in the beginning of March, wherein he proposed a match for my nephew; having never been acquainted with him, I asked Mr. Monckton his character, who being very inquisitive why I inquired, I told him he had writ me a letter with such a proposal. Meeting him several weeks after in the Park, he asked my pardon, that he had not waited on me according to his letter, but that he would tell me the reason, he said, being with the Duke, he asked him how long he had set up for a match maker, and bid him not concern himself any further in what he had proposed. I must here refer to all that passed between Lord Oxford and the Duke, before his taking that title and the Treasurer's staff; upon which the Duke said many things to me which gave me reason to think that he fully intended it.

The Duke dying suddenly in July by a fall from his horse, the Duchess immediately wrote to the Treasurer to let him know the circumstances of the Duke's death, and that she was resolved to contest the will; and some time after by her Grace's directions the will and settlement of the Cavendish estate were put into my hands to advise with counsel. Mr. Minshal upon perusing the same sent his opinion to the Duchess, that the will was not duly executed, and that the Duchess by her father's deed and will could not dispose of the Cavendish estate from her children. Upon the Duke's interment in Westminster Abbey, Mr. Brailesford, the chaplain, and Mr. Wenman the secretary, came to me and having talked very largely of what they apprehended was the Duke's intention in relation to the match, said, they did not doubt it was also the Duchess's intention, and therefore mentioned that the Lord Treasurer should write to the Duchess on that subject, which when I told him, he said that neither he nor any other person had an estate adequate to the great fortune of that Lady, and that in the station he was then in, it would be dishonourable to make a proposal which might be rejected. Therefore I proposed that when

they returned to Welbeck, they should take some fitting opportunity to mention it to her Grace, that if it were disagreeable to her no further notice might ever be taken of it.

In a few days after they returned, I received letters from them both, wherein they mentioned their speaking to the Duchess upon this subject, and her Grace's approval of it, which she herself had done in her letter to Lord Oxford. In Wenman's letter it was said, her Grace commands me to let you know that she has that opinion of the Lord Treasurer, that he can never fall so low, but that his great capacity will make him superior to any person in England. The Duchess, in her letters before she came to town, desires him to secure the title of Newcastle, and take himself the wardenship of the forest of Sherwood. Having these encouragements, Lord Treasurer and myself spoke to the Duchess several times upon this subject, who said that as it was the Duke's intention so it was hers, and went so far as to direct me to advise with counsel how the settlements might be made during Lady Harriot's nonage. [See the queries all wrote with the Duchess's own hand]; and so far did her Grace go to make me believe she really intended it, that being one evening with her, and Lord Sunderland coming, she bid me go up to her daughter, who was in her bedchamber. In August, 1712, I went with the Lord Cheyne to Welbeck, and brought a proposal which was delivered to Lord Treasurer by Lord Paget and Mr. Waters, but the Duchess absolutely refused to hearken to any terms of accommodation. Upon hearing of the cause in February, 1713, the Duchess was ordered to produce the deed whereby the Cavendish estate was settled, at which she was so much exasperated, that she was resolved to appeal from the order to the House of Lords, and sent the appeal by Mr. Groundman and Mr. Wenman to me to deliver to Lord Treasurer, and that I should let him know that it was his own cause, and therefore he should look after it, which she herself repeated to me the next day at her own house. Notwithstanding this the Treasurer persisted in dissuading her from proceeding in the Appeal, and when he found she was unalterable in her purpose, he wrote to her, that he must desire to be excused from appearing when the cause was heard, which when he acquainted me with, I told him that he could after this have no expectation of the match; but the Treasurer remained firm in his resolution, and upon the hearing neither he nor any Lord upon whom he had any immediate influence appeared. This must be reckoned among the many merciful Providences that have favoured him, for considering what happened afterwards by the loss or destruction of the deed, he could never have been cleared in the opinion of the world from being concerned with the Duchess in the destruction of it; and perhaps there are few instances of any persons acting with so much honour, when it was to hazard the obtaining so great an advantage to his family.

Before I conclude this, I must mention a very signal Providence relating to myself in this affair. The Duchess having sent for me to come to her after the sequestration was issued, and asking me what I would advise her to do, I told her there was no way to avoid the great confusions and mischiefs that must inevitably come upon the estate by the sequestration, but by delivering up the deed, to which she replied, this I will never do, and seemed to intimate she would withstand the sequestrators coming into the house. I represented to her the very ill consequence of this, and persuaded her that she would rather leave the house, which she did the next day. The Duchess

being some time after prevailed upon to put in her answer, and a formal examination being appointed in the Court of Chancery concerning this deed, it being insinuated that I had conveyed it out of the house, and carried it to Lady Harriot at Wimpole; but upon examination I was able to swear that from the day I had been with the Duchess to that time, I had never been within the doors. From this malice I was preserved by a very extraordinary Providence, for she having desired me sometimes to go into the house to see that nothing should be embezzled by the sequestrators, I did once coming from the Parliament House call at the door, but the porter not coming immediately, something struck in my mind (of which I can give no account), whereupon I went away, and was thereby enabled entirely to baffle this calumny, which I mention, with an humble acknowledgment of the Divine goodness. In the end of July, 1713, the Duchess parting from her daughter at Wimpole in great displeasure, Lady Harriot, the same day her Grace left her, wrote to me by a special messenger to wait upon her at Wimpole, which I did, but first gave notice to the Duchess of my going. [Here may be inserted if thought fit, the manner of the Duchess leaving her daughter, and the harsh treatment she met with from her Grace, and other relations, as also what passed at the time of marriage.]

Upon the first appearance of peace, the leaders of the Whig party with great industry, drew in their followers to clamour at it, even before the propositions were known, in which Sir Gilbert Heathcote was so open that he said, let it be good or bad, they must rail at it, for it was not fit for such Jacobite rogues to make a peace. The Pensionary of Holland, in answer to Lord Treasurer's letter, which brought him the first proposals of peace from France, expressed the earnest desire of the States to obtain a peace, and the pressing necessities they were then under, and also desired that the Queen would proceed in this negotiation. This single letter, without other proof, was in the opinion of Lord Oxford's counsel a sufficient evidence to overturn all the Articles of Impeachment upon the subject of the peace.

The States coming in heartily to the measures of peace, and having agreed to appoint Utrecht for the Congress, sent Mr. Buys over to England to negotiate the same, who upon his arrival falling in with the Junto was drawn into all their measures for disappointing it. Sometimes he told the Treasurer, by the plan of the peace there was not enough allotted to the Emperor, to which the Treasurer replied, my Lord, before five years, if the peace be made upon this plan, the States of Holland will complain that the Emperor hath too great power. [What has passed between the Emperor and the States concerning their Barrier has fully verified this.] At other times, he said, that if Holland might have an equal share with England in the trade they were to have to the Spanish West Indies, they would make no further difficulties about the peace, but immediately conclude it. To this the Treasurer replied, will the States agree that the Queen shall have Ostend and Brill and Newport? It must be observed that Mr. Buys was so managed by the Junto, that he refused to produce any powers from the States. [Insert here the particulars of the negotiation with Mr. Buys, and what the Duke of Marlborough said to Lord Oxford upon Buys' demand of the Assiento.]

The Duke of Marlborough returning from Flanders in November set himself at the head of those that were to oppose the peace. In the House of Commons all their attempts were thoroughly exposed;

but in the House of Lords, by the absence of several, they carried an address to the Queen by one vote, that the Crown of Spain should not be continued in any of the House of Bourbon. The Duke of Marlborough appearing so very publicly to oppose all the measures of peace, and to animate all his followers to do the same, the Queen whose heart was set upon obtaining it (as she often expressed in her letters to the Treasurer) found herself necessitated to deprive the Duke of Marlborough of all his commands, which were conferred upon the Duke of Ormond. The foreign Princes who had lived upon England during the war found it their interest to oppose the peace, but especially the Emperor, whose troops in Flanders, Italy, and Spain had been paid by England. In order to which Prince Eugene was dispatched to England to animate the party which opposed the peace, that by his great dexterity he might subvert the measures and credit of it. [See here all the intercepted letters from the Court of Vienna, which will fully explain the intent of this Embassy. Insert the Queen's forbidding Prince Eugene to land.]

About this time a party of desperate cutthroats appeared, who called themselves by the name of Mohocks, they distinguished themselves by committing some outrage every night, either by cutting off the noses and ears of several persons, or by wounding them desperately. The intercepted letters which are in Lord Oxford's hands will explain the design of raising this desperate spirit which was either to intimidate the Queen, or murder the Treasurer, which so far affected her Majesty that in her great goodness she spake to her Treasurer to take more care of himself, to which he replied; Madam, I would rather be a worm than a man if I did not believe a Providence. Prince Eugene had often been with Lord Oxford, but found him so fully apprized of his Embassy, that his great skill could make no impression upon him, and therefore was pleased to say that he was an unfathomable man. [Here should be inserted what passed from this time till the conclusion of the peace, in which insert the negotiation with Prince Eugene and other foreign Ministers.]

The peace being concluded at Utrecht, for which both Houses of Parliament and most of the counties and corporations in England returned their solemn thanks to her Majesty, the first thing that appeared in Parliament relating to the peace was the Bill of Commerce, which was to establish the trade with France upon a much more advantageous foot than ever it had been. In this was seen the folly of depending upon any party, many of the leaders of the Tories in both Houses falling into the measures of the Whigs, to slur the peace by opposing this Bill, in which they prevailed by too great a compliance to the caprice of those gentlemen who called themselves of the Church party. About this time Lord Bolingbroke, Lord Harcourt, and the now Bishop of Rochester fell into a strict alliance, and endeavoured to raise a great prejudice in the Church party against the Treasurer, upbraiding him for not being a sincere Churchman as they called it; and to make this pass had got lists out of every office of the names of such persons as they called Whigs, who were continued in their employments. The Lord Bolingbroke told me, if your brother will not set himself at the head of the Church party, somebody must. When I told the Treasurer this, he said, I have prevailed with the Queen to make Mr. Bromley her secretary, which is the greatest instance I can give of my sincerity to that party, but you will find that this will be so far from satisfying these gentlemen, who have other

views, that it will only tend to increase their rage; and so it proved. The peace being concluded, and the army disbanded, the Lord Bolingbroke and others set themselves to undermine the Treasurer, and took the advantage of his absence at Wimpole upon the marriage of his son. The Lady Masham, following the example of the Duchess of Marlborough, thought nothing ought to be done without her privity and consent, and finding the Treasurer could not be brought into those corrupt measures that might fully gratify her avarice, she set herself with all the malice that passion could inspire to prejudice the Queen against the Treasurer. Lord Bolingbroke and others, by the help of Arthur Moore, contrived to gratify her avarice in obtaining for her a share in the Assiento contract, and also a great sum that was to arise by the three explanatory Articles in the Spanish treaty, which was a very material alteration from the first plan settled in the Cabinet Council, and adjusted with the Plenipotentiaries. These being by surprise put into Mr. Bromley's hand, then Secretary of State, and signed by the Queen, means were found to make the Treasurer so very uneasy in his administration that he desired to give up the white staff the beginning of that Session, which he had determined to do, but by the persuasion of the Lord Trevor he was prevailed upon not to resign that post. During this session the Lord Bolingbroke, in conjunction with others, endeavoured to chafe the Treasurer in everything; and, to follow the measures that the Whigs had taken about the Occasional Bill, they brought in the Bill against Schism, with no other design than to embarrass the Treasurer. Among other things that were projected against him it was resolved that the Occasional Bill should be brought into the House of Commons.* This it is said the Lord Nottingham insisted upon as a preliminary to his coming into all their measures, and to this the Junto and Whig Lords fully complied, notwithstanding they had for several years before made the most vigorous opposition to its passing, and thereby fermented the nation to such a degree, that by their speeches and pamphlets they represented the Protestant religion and the liberties of Europe, depending upon the fate of this Bill; but now, for the sake of destroying the Treasurer and gaining one single Lord to their side, they unanimously agree to sacrifice all the Dissenters, and with one consent in both Houses permit the Bill to pass without the least opposition. The Treasurer was apprized of the snare that was laid for him and therefore managed it in such a manner that the Bill was not brought into the House of Commons; but Lord Nottingham brought it into the House of Lords, where it passed without the least opposition, as it did in the House of Commons, where the Church party showed how much they contemned the Lord that brought it in, and the Whig party that had thus given it up, which had no other effect than gaining the Lord Nottingham entirely in their interest. It might not be amiss to insert here the whole history of the Occasional Bill, that posterity may see how popular pretences are thrown out only to serve the interest and turn of parties; for this Bill, being passed into a law produced none of the consequences expected from it by either party; not more than five persons through the whole Kingdom having quitted any place of profit under the Government.

Towards the end of this Session the Lord Bolingbroke began to talk pretty openly in his loose manner for the Pretender, which raised

* This is misplaced and should be inserted before.—*Note in margin.*

some spirit in the Jacobites, and so much alarmed others, that Lords Anglesea, Abingdon, and Sir Thomas Hanmer, &c., expressed openly their apprehension that the nation would be deluged with blood and confusion. In this session a demand was made for a writ for the Duke of Cambridge for his sitting in the House of Peers. This very much alarmed the Queen, and, as I have been told, Lord Bolingbroke and Lady Masham took this occasion to insinuate that this was a contrivance of the Treasurer's, to which perhaps she might be the more induced, because Mr. Thomas Harley was then her Envoy at Hanover; whereas in truth it was by means of the Treasurer, and Mr. Harley's conduct there, that the Prince's coming over was prevented. About this time was printed a letter from the Treasurer, to the then Elector of Hanover, wherein he represents the true interest of that family, in respect of England; considering the measures that have been since taken by that family, this letter seems to have had something in it of prophecy, which being sent to the Duke of Marlborough was by the Duchess transmitted to her friends in England, who in concert with the Lord Bolingbroke got it printed, and then insinuated to the Queen that it was printed by the Treasurer's direction, which was another ingredient in raising the Queen's displeasure towards him.

However, I am apt to think that the insinuations used with the Queen on this subject were what chiefly induced her Majesty to part with the Treasurer, which she did but four days before her death, falling ill that very night. [The particulars of this are referred to Lord Oxford.] Whatever new scheme was projected it is plain the Queen when she came to see it laid open was so far shocked at her parting with her Treasurer, that some of her physicians plainly said it was the occasion of her death; and whatever the scheme was it is very plain that the Duke of Marlborough was to be at the head of it. For which reason he left Flanders and was shipping for England, some few days before the Queen's sickness or death, in which I am fully confirmed by the conversation I had about that time with the Lord Cadogan, the Duke of Somerset and others, who then were not actually in the Queen's service, were engaged in the new plan that was forming by the Lord Bolingbroke. The little interval that the Queen had from the extremity of her illness gave her the opportunity of putting the Treasurer's staff into the hands of the Duke of Shrewsbury, which proved a great mortification to the Lord Bolingbroke and his friends.

The treatment the Lord Oxford and all the Queen's servants had upon the arrival of King George is too well known, therefore I pass over all this, leaving the particulars to others. [Here, if it be thought fit, may be inserted a letter writ to New England by Mr. Banister, who was by the Lord Coningsby brought as a witness in the affair of the Canada expedition.]

The Parliament meeting upon the Queen's death fell into measures to express their loyalty and zeal for the service of the new King, and each party endeavoured who should outdo the other, which produced a larger Civil List for life than had ever before been given. Thus this Tory Jacobite Parliament, as it is called, secured the quiet possession of the Throne to a family wholly unknown to the nation. But so little was this valued that the King never once met this Parliament, nor permitted them to be at his Coronation; soon after they were dissolved, and by the Proclamation for calling a new one, the Peace and Administration of the Government in the last years of the Queen's reign were branded with the blackest infamy, particularly "that the Trade and Navigation of

England was destroyed." [This was repeated in the King's Speech upon the opening of the Parliament.] This, with a great sum of money that was issued, had the desired effects in the elections which were carried on with the utmost violence and partiality. The Lord Con[ingsb]y, who in the beginning of King William's reign had undertaken to keep Sir E. Harley out of Parliament, again undertakes this with respect to the whole family. In Radnorshire he succeeded according to his desire, where those persons who had in a manner received their bread from Lord Oxford now basely deserted his interest, particularly Burton, who was then Bailiff of Radnor, and was under so many obligations to the family, did in a most vile manner practice everything that might prevent the Lord Harley being returned, and this contrary to his solemn oaths and promises. By these methods and others, Mr. Lewis was returned for Radnor, though his father's whole estate was scarce a qualification, had he had the whole. And Mr. Fowler by like measures was returned for the County, and to close what relates to this place I must say I never met with so much open villany and secret perfidy as universally prevailed; excepting some very few instances; which has brought me to a resolution to dispose of my estate in that county. The like I may say of Bishop's Castle, where Mason, whose estate was then actually under an extent to the Crown, and in debt more than it was worth, was furnished with money, and after the very poll was begun bribed so many of the burgesses as procured his majority; the baseness and perfidy that I met with in this place has brought me to the like resolution of parting with it, being unwilling to leave the temptation to my son of being drawn into a great expense upon such mercenary rascals. But the election at Leominster, where I had the least reason to expect success, had a quite contrary turn. [Here insert the whole affair of the election at Leominster, the attempts to take away their Charter, and all the proceeding thereupon.]

The elections being over, being at Brampton, my brother took me one evening a walking, and fell into the discourse of his whole Administration, and particularly that of the Peace [see the "History of the White Staff," &c., and Lord Oxford's advertisements against them]; which said he, though the events in all human probability will justify, yet I foresee that the malice of those who have so often sought my life will, with the utmost rage, pursue my blood upon this account. That which is called common prudence might prompt me to avoid the storm that I see is falling upon me, but having thoroughly considered this matter, and not being conscious to myself of doing any one thing that is contrary to the interest of my country, I am come to an absolute conclusion to resign myself to the Providence of the Almighty, and not either by flight, or any other way to sully the honour of my Royal Mistress, though now in her grave, nor stain my own innocence even for an hour.

He added there are but two ways for a man to die with real honour, the one is by suffering martyrdom for his religion, and the other by dying a martyr for his country. He added further, you are now going to London, and you will be solicited to persuade me to leave the Kingdom; but let not your concern for me influence you in this matter, for I am come, by the help of God, to an unalterable resolution of abiding the worst that can befal me.

The Lord Bolingbroke, by the private negotiations of the Duke of Marlborough and those employed by him, was not only prevailed upon to quit the Kingdom in disguise, but also to deliver up his book of private letters relating to the Peace, out of which was picked, by the Secret

Committee, all the evidence that could be pretended against him. What reward he had for this, and what negotiations he then entered into for betraying the Chevalier and those that trusted him, is a secret piece of history, which perhaps a little time may unveil. This perfidious flight strangely elated the party of bloodhounds, and seemed to justify their greatest violences. My Lord Oxford being then in the country, neither his friends nor enemies would believe that he would appear in London, and so confident were his enemies of this, that the Lord Coningsby said in the House of Commons that the Lord who had been the first minister in the Queen's reign had absconded himself, and would never appear to justify his administration; to which I replied in the House, the person that Lord means is so far either from absconding or flying, that he came last night to his own house in London, where he is resolved to remain, being determined to justify his conduct, which, if he could not do, he would think his blood too small a sacrifice to atone for anything he had done against the liberties of his country. In a short time [in April] a certain person came to me and expressed his great concern for Lord Oxford and the apprehension of the great danger in which he was, and said plainly that there was but one way to save his life, which was by immediately going beyond sea, and that there was but a very little time to consider of it, and therefore earnestly pressed me to represent truly to him his danger, and at the same time delivered to me a bill drawn upon a banker in Paris for an unlimited credit. When I represented all this to my brother, his answer was, I am unalterably fixed in my first resolution.

While the Secret Committee were forming their Report, the House was every day amused with the great discoveries they had made; and that they might render themselves very terrible, Mr. Harley and Mr. Prior were by the Chairman moved to be taken into custody by the Serjeant at Arms, in order, as was pretended, to secure them from avoiding being examined as witnesses for the Commons, and when upon their examination they could find nothing that could anyway be brought to serve their purpose, they then moved that they should both be closely confined, where they continued for more than twelve months. This may be truly said to be one of the most villanous outrages that ever were made upon the liberty of an Englishman. [Insert here Mr. Prior's and Mr. Harley's examination, and the particulars of that whole affair.] Several of the clerks, also of the Treasury, were examined upon a silly apprehension that Mr. Harley had taken a great sum of money out of the Treasury to bribe the Dutch to come into the Peace. Mr. Taylor, the first clerk, being examined, treated this and some other questions asked in such a manner that gave great offence to many of the members of this High Court of Justice, for which he was soon after removed from his place, which he had enjoyed for many years, and executed with great understanding and integrity.

While they were preparing their Report, the Duke of Ormond was very unhappily prevailed upon to publish several letters relating to his own conduct, which were afterwards made use of very much to his prejudice.

The Report being finished [insert here what relates to the thirteen volumes of letters out of which they pretended to extract the evidence, but would not suffer the members of the House to take a day's time to peruse them, though they had solemnly promised to the contrary upon the first appointment of the Secret Committee. See here the Journal of the House of Commons to ascertain the times of these proceedings] was upon the 10th of June, 1715, brought into the House by Mr. Walpole,

after the reading whereof he moved that the Lord Bolingbroke should be impeached of High Treason; which, being voted, the Lord Coningsby, seconded by Sir D. Dalrymple, moved that the Earl of Oxford should be impeached of High Treason and other high crimes. The Articles of Impeachment being brought in, Sir Joseph Jekyll and others excepted against those two which contained the charge of Treason, and Sir J. Jekyll plainly said there was no proof or evidence to maintain them. This threw the whole party into a great confusion, and raised so great a storm upon Sir Joseph, that the Speaker desired to know whether they were impeaching the Lord Oxford or Sir J. Jekyll. To get off this difficulty Gaffney's Hangman (Coningsby?) told the House that he would undertake to find proof (and, indeed, was not wanting in his endeavours to make his promise good, having employed that villain Burton to suborn John James, that had been a servant of Lord Oxford's, to swear that he had seen the Chevalier at his Lordship's house. [Here insert James's deposition, as also Mr. Vallier's, the one tempted by a place, the other by a great sum of money] whereupon the question was put and was voted by 280. Upon this great division, Mr. Walpole swore that if 280 would not make him fly, the Devil was in him, for there was no such man living in the world. It took some time to frame the Articles of Impeachment which were drawn by Mr. Lechmere, which, as he himself afterwards owned, were formed from the directions given to him by Mr. Walpole in writing. This he acknowledged in the House of Commons upon the debate of the Report of the Canada Bills, when he also said he followed his directions, but never saw any proof of the maintenance of the Articles.

The Articles of Impeachment were carried up to the House of Lords by the Lord Coningsby on the 9th of July, at night, a Saturday. Several of the Lords insisted that the members of the Secret Committee had themselves in the House of Commons declared that there was no proof to support the two Treason Articles, and that if there were evidence, yet the facts laid were not treason, and therefore insisted that the opinion of the Judges should be asked; but after a very long debate, which held till between ten and eleven at night, it was carried in the negative, which was followed by an order for the commitment of the Lord Oxford to the Tower. What passed that day in the House of Lords, and the barbarous insolence with which he was treated by some, I must refer to those that were present.

It must be owned to be a very severe trial for a generous mind to be so insulted, to see in himself the liberty of the Peers confounded, to have nothing in view but death or perpetual imprisonment; and yet was he so supported by the Almighty that, notwithstanding the very great pain of the gravel and rheumatism under which he then laboured, his defence of his Royal Mistress, the liberty of the Peers and his own, was maintained with so much firmness of mind that the speech [here insert the Speech] he then made fetched tears either of rage or compassion from the greatest of his enemies; the Duke of Marlborough himself saying that he could not but envy him that under such circumstances could talk in such a manner with so much resolution. He came from the House of Lords to his own house at St. James's between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, and though under the custody of the Black Rod, was followed from Westminster to St. James's with the huzzas of the people. These so terrified K[ing] G[eorge] that he left his supper in great confusion. The extreme illness of Lord Oxford was a reason for his enemies to consent that he should continue under the care of the Black Rod at his own house, or rather that from thence he might have

an opportunity to make his escape; and, indeed, so violent was the storm, that very few of his friends or relations were not induced to persuade, or at least to desire, that he would thus save himself from the present rage. Whatever were my apprehensions, I never said anything to him to vary that resolution, which I knew was unalterably fixed. Many persons under the pretence of friendship often represented to his relations that he had nothing to choose but flight or death; to which he answered to more than one, I know how to die, but cannot fly; shall I stain the honour of so great a Queen and sacrifice my own innocence only for the sake of living a few years longer? I shall not be the first that has died a martyr for his country. If I have done anything against its liberties, I ought to suffer for it; if not I will trust myself to the protection of the Divine Providence and the known laws of my country; if these are to be subverted why should I desire to outlive them, and if my blood will compose the unhappy differences of this nation, I will go to the scaffold without a constable. [What he said to others of his friends and relations upon this occasion I hope will be recollected by them.]

Although application was made to the House of Lords for his being continued sometime longer at his house at St. James's, by reason of his extreme illness, yet such was the inhumanity of those that had sacrificed their own Peerage to gratify their own malice or the humour of their party that they refused to prolong their first time; so that upon the 18th of July [see the Journal of the Lords] he went to the Tower with the Black Rod, but being apprehensive that in the Strand, Fleet Street, &c., there was a great concourse of people who intended either to rescue him or insult the Black Rod, he prevailed upon him to go through Smithfield privately to the Tower.

After many solicitations made by several persons to Mr. Compton, the then Lieutenant of the Tower, he was with great importunity prevailed upon to suffer my Lord to lie at Mr. Tollet's house, who had been one of his dependents, and deserves the character of a truly grateful and honest man; but here they thought he would be too easy, and therefore Fouquier, a French fellow who has for many years managed all the affairs of the Mint to the great prejudice of the nation, shows his forwardness in drawing up a representation against my Lord Oxford continuing there.

Notwithstanding the great increase of my Lord's illness, and the extreme pain he was then under, Compton removed him between nine and ten at night to a new lodging, where, taking a fresh cold, his pains grew so very severe, that for many months he was neither able to put on his clothes or feed himself. The character of this man is so very mean that the best can be said of him is, he is very fully qualified for a jailer. I must say that, notwithstanding the great pains and indisposition my Lord was under during the greatest part of his imprisonment, I never observed that either his pains or imprisonment deprived him of the sereneness and composure of his mind. It was a very great difficulty upon him in this state of pain and weakness to adjust his answer to the Articles of Impeachment, in which he has justified the Queen's Administration and his own integrity.

My Lord Oxford had not been a month in the Tower before the death of the King of France happened. Then it appeared that the two monarchies of France and Spain were effectually separated, and that what the Queen had said in her Speech, that the Peace would execute itself, was fully accomplished, both monarchies zealously adhering to the partition made by the Treaty at Utrecht, and it now appeared that

the Powers of Europe had never been poised with so much equality since the dissolution of the Roman Empire.

The Lord Oxford did not go to the Duke of Ormond to Richmond, yet he often writ to him, and always persuaded him to stand their utmost fury, which, had he done, it is very evident that the Impeachment against himself and others had been entirely baffled. But the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Bill being with very little opposition carried in the House of Commons, the Duke was prevailed upon to retire into France. [Here insert the imprisonment of Lord Dupplin in the Tower, and the barbarous treatment of his Lady then lying in and the continuing of my Lord in the Tower till the very last day that the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act expired.]

The risings in Scotland and the North brought the Parliament into their wished-for measures of establishing a standing army. [All that relates to this affair I leave to those who know the particulars, which whenever truly represented it will appear that the whole was conducted by a great deal of treachery and folly. The part indeed that was acted by the Lord Mar was very great. Here should be also inserted the proceedings of the House of Commons in the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act; the Impeachment of these unhappy Lords, the tampering with all of them to be witness against Lord Oxford, and how they were prevailed upon to plead guilty. As also the altering one of the most fundamental laws of the Kingdom for the trial of crimes in the county where the fact is committed.]

It is very remarkable that this success and the leading in triumph through all parts of the City of London the unhappy Lords and gentlemen taken at Preston had no influence upon the election of the Common Council, notwithstanding the utmost solicitation of the Court. Towards the end of October the Lord Oxford was seized with a desperate fever, of which distemper I fell ill the same day at Eywood, which confined both of us to our beds for some time.

And now the Lord Townshend, Secretary of State, and Mr. Walpole, First Commissioner of the Treasury, thought they had nothing left to make their power as lasting as they had made it absolute; this was by prolonging this excellent Parliament. The attempt was thought very bold, but they who had sacrificed so many parts of the Constitution were very ready to betray their trust in giving up the Triennial Bill, and thereby establishing their own power.

This Rubicon being passed, Townshend and Walpole looked upon themselves as absolute Dictators, and had the vanity to say now their Administration was established beyond control, but so unstable are all human affairs, and so vain are the schemes that mankind project for the support of their own insolence and tyranny, that these two haughty ministers never perceived their approaching fall, till they found the very ground on which they stood beginning to sink under them. How this was brought about by the Duke of Marlborough, the Lord Sunderland, and Stanhope, will be a fine piece of secret history, how it appeared that the Whiggish phalanx, which had so many years remained unbroken, was shattered to pieces and the Junto dissolved. The new project or pretence of paying the Public Debts was by Mr. Stanhope kidnapped from Walpole and the united rage and fury with which they had pursued others are now turned against each other.

The Lord Oxford came to a full resolution to petition the House of Lords in March to be tried, in which he principally advised with the Lord Trevor. As soon as this was known the Duke of Marlborough

talked of nothing but a Bill of Attainder or a Bill of Banishment; and [I] being once to wait upon the Duke of Shrewsbury with the draught of my Lord's petition, he told me he was afraid they would attempt the latter, which, says he, to my Lord Oxford would be a great punishment, but to me it would be a favour. So far was this carried on, that the person who at first would have persuaded his flight now proposed his petitioning the King to have leave to go beyond sea or to be put in the Act of Grace. Either of these, indeed, would have seemed to be no harsh condition to one under so long a confinement and so violent a prosecution. But such was the firmness of his own mind and the consciousness of his integrity that he utterly refused the least compliance with anything that might tarnish his own innocence. [See here his letters on this subject.] And, that I might get out of the way of all solicitations of this kind, he writes to me to go to see my son at Oxford. [Here should be inserted the negotiations of Col. Graham and others to prevent his petitioning.]

Upon my return I found his petition drawn, which was presented by the Lord Trevor upon the day of May, 1717. Upon the debate the Lord Sunderland, to the great surprise of all, declared his opinion that a certain day should be fixed for his trial or acquittal, but it was not less surprising that the Lord Harcourt should move so long a day as the 13th of June, when it was expected that the Parliament would quickly rise. This strangely provoked many of the Lords against Lord Harcourt, and put them upon opposing and dividing against everything he proposed in this affair, which might have proved of very ill consequence, but it pleased God to prevent it. The message from the Lords that they had appointed a day for the trial of the Earl of Oxford was entertained with a good deal of merriment, even by the members of the Secret Committee, but some answer being to be returned, they adjourned the consideration of it to the next day, when Mr. Shippen, Mr. Hungerford, and others treated these Impeachers with so much contempt that all their former rage was revived and now turned into perfect fury. I presently foresaw the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough would not fail to blow this flame, which they did without any disguise, hoping that the time was come when their cruel revenge would be fully satiated. Though this fury in the House of Commons began apparently to abate, Mr. Walpole and others, declining to take upon them the chief management of this affair, and refusing to meet till they had chosen Carter their Chairman; yet the Duke and Duchess pursued the prosecution with the utmost violence. It was necessary that the House of Lords should fix the method of their proceedings, therefore came to a Resolution that they should first proceed to the Trial of the two Treason Articles. [Here should be inserted all the Journal of the House of Lords and Commons, with the several messages and conferences on this subject which lasted to the first day of July.] The managers in the House of Commons being sensible that they had not the least shadow of evidence to support their accusation, were resolved to get clear of this affair by not complying with the House of Lords, and therefore insisted to proceed in their own method.

Mr. Hampden, one of the Secret Committee, nine days before the Trial, told me that there never had been produced to the Committee any evidence to prove the Articles, that the Lord Oxford's answer had never been read in the Secret Committee, and that it was a most scandalous proceeding, which he was resolved to expose in the House. Notwithstanding he had said this to me and so many others, yet he becomes

the first man that opens the Impeachment; by what methods he did it is easy to be guessed.

Upon Monday, the first of July, it was proposed by the Lord Harcourt that if the Commons did not come down to prosecute, the Lords should proceed to discharge the Earl of Oxford of the two Treason Articles, without taking notice of the Articles of Misdemeanour. This the Lord Sunderland opposed, and said if he was discharged of any for want of prosecution, he ought to be discharged of all, and accordingly the Question in the strongest terms was immediately drawn up and resolved by the House of Lords. [Insert the Question.]

Thus by the infinite goodness of the Almighty and His overruling Providence, the man who was his most inveterate enemy is made the instrument of his absolute discharge and deliverance, which was far beyond all the expectations of his friends. And therefore we may truly say, How great is His goodness! How great is His mercy; to them that only fear and trust in the Almighty.

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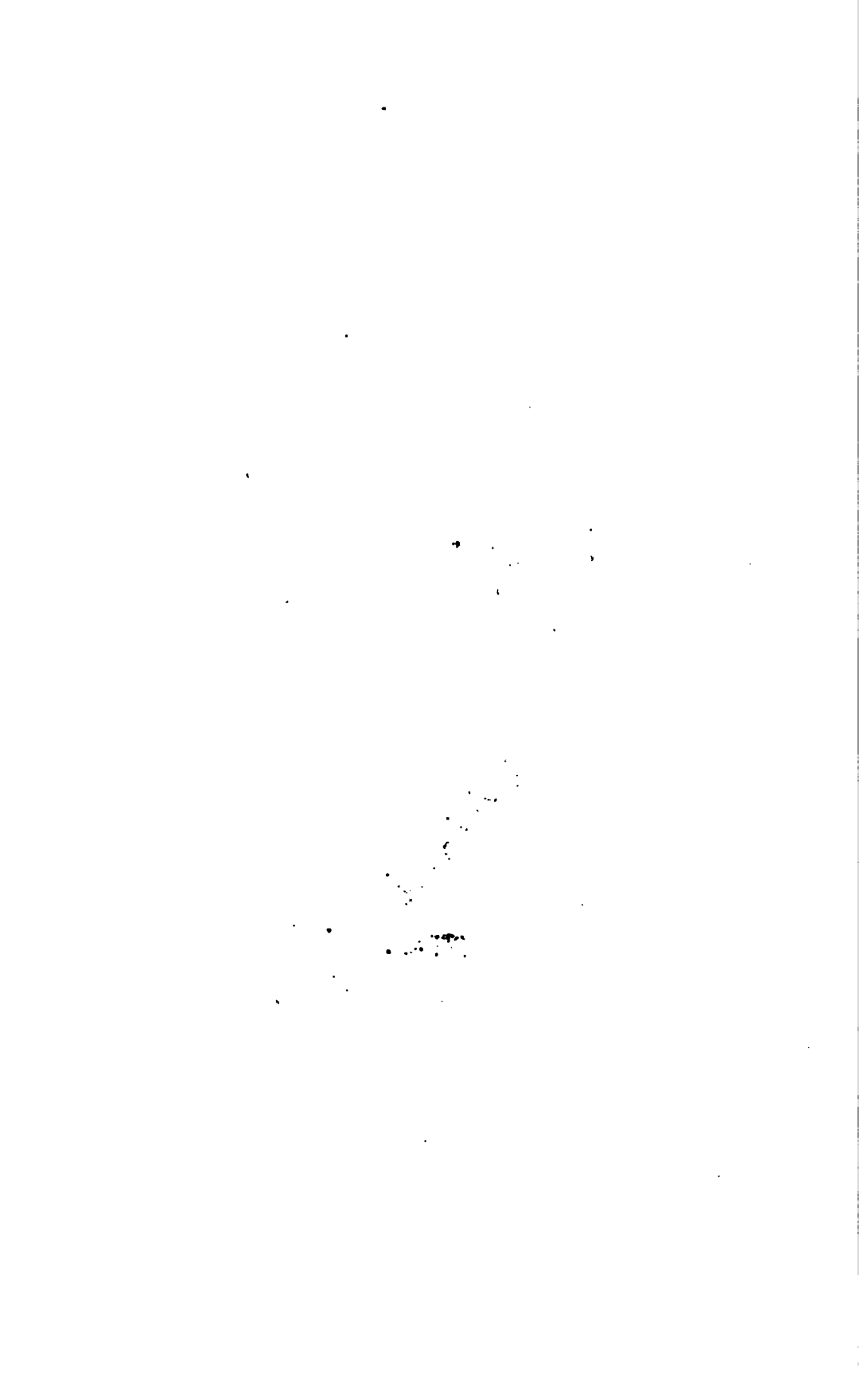
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